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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky calls on **Europe to develop its own air defence systems** and urges more support from the US after Russia's latest deadly drone and missile barrage left 17 people dead, P 14

About **30 individuals from India, found to be living in the US illegally** and working as commercial truck drivers, have been arrested as part of a federal operation and will soon be deported, says US Customs and Border Protection

WHO confirms **116 suspected cases of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola** and 321 confirmed cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo. While 41 people have died, six have recovered

Marta Kostyuk, a vocal supporter of Ukraine amid the war, will play her first major semifinal at French Open against a Russian; Alexander Zverev continues his quest for a maiden Grand Slam, enters semis, P 18

CBSE chief and secy booted over OSM row, govt panel to probe procurement

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New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday removed CBSE chairperson Rahul Singh and secretary Himanshu Gupta from their posts with immediate effect and ordered a one-member inquiry into the procurement of the digital evaluation (on-screen marking) system.

The appointments committee of Cabinet approved the appointment of Lokhande Prashant Sitaram, additional secretary in the ministry of home affairs, as the new CBSE chairperson in place of Singh, who has been shifted as additional secretary in the department of agriculture and farmers welfare.

Gupta was sent back to his parent cadre in the ministry of home affairs on "administrative grounds" with "extended cooling off", according to an order, while Varun Bhardwaj, director in the department of higher education, has been appointed the new CBSE secretary.

Meanwhile, ministry sources said central cybersecurity agencies, including Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), were closely monitoring alleged cyberattacks and security threats targeting CBSE's OSM re-evaluation portal. "Strict penal action will be taken against those found involved," a senior official said.

As first reported by **TOI** in Tuesday's edition on the likelihood of heads rolling in CBSE, the move follows weeks of criticism over the rollout of OSM-based evaluation.

▶1-member panel, P 11

TEEN FLAGS NEET PORTAL CHINKS

- OSM tender under scrutiny after records show **Coempt narrowly edged TCS in technical evaluation** before securing a decisive advantage through a sharply lower bid
- NTA scrambles to patch **vulnerabilities in its NEET-UG portal** highlighted by Rylen Anil, a teen 'cybersecurity researcher'
- Delhi **court allows NEET-UG paper leak accused Yash Yadav to retain books** in judicial custody to prepare for re-exam
- Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi dub govt action on CBSE brass 'eyewash', K C Venugopal calls it **'admission of guilt without punishing the culprit'**

Photo: Sanjay Jadkar

Mumbai Youth Congress protest Tuesday to demand Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation

Cyberattack on CBSE re-eval site hrs after launch

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New Delhi: A potentially debilitating wave of alleged cyberattacks struck CBSE's newly launched Class 12 verification and re-evaluation portal within hours of its activation on Tuesday, raising fresh concerns over the cybersecurity preparedness of India's high-stakes examination infrastructure and the safety of sensitive student data linked to the board's on-screen marking (OSM) system.

CBSE said the site faced a denial-of-service attack that generated nearly 15 lakh hits within two minutes and more than one lakh attempts to gain unauthorised access to files.

▶CBSE: 16k have filed, P 11

Student tells Parl panel about 'tendering flaws'

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New Delhi: CERT-In, the govt-run agency tasked with handling cyber threats, has said it first flagged vulnerabilities in CBSE-related domains on Feb 26 and its emergency assessment of one portal revealed the platform was not fit for hosting in-production environment, the operational stage of a software app, as a parliamentary panel quizzed officials.

Sarthak Sidhant, a student from Jharkhand, made a presentation on alleged irregularities in the tendering process for vendor selection, days after he flagged the issue online, swinging govt agencies into action.

▶To address issues, P 11

WMO's El Niño alert raises odds of severe impact on monsoon

'80% Chance Of Onset During June-Aug Period'

New Delhi: Fuelled by unusually warm waters in the Pacific, El Niño is rapidly developing and is set to impact global temperature and rainfall patterns, increasing risk of extreme weather in coming months, World Meteorological Organisation warned Tuesday in an update that points to an "80% likelihood of El Niño forming in June–Aug", **reports Vishwa Mohan.**

This makes it almost certain that the conditions would severely weaken India's monsoon and turn June hotter than normal, as predicted by IMD last week.

While there's uncertainty over El Niño's peak strength and timing, most forecast models suggest it'll be "at least moderate — and possibly strong", said WMO, considered the most authoritative information source for govts.

It said the probabilities for El Nino event to continue until at least Nov are near or above 90% — this means its impact will be felt in India during entire four-month monsoon season till Sept when summer sowing takes place.

▶Weak monsoon, P 10

'DON'T PANIC'

- Agri ministry officials in huddle to **review preparedness for deficit monsoon.** Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan asks farmers not to panic
- Officials say **water level** in country's reservoirs currently satisfactory, with **overall storage at 127% of normal level**
- **MONSOON ONSET:** IMD says monsoon now expected to **arrive over Kerala around June 4,** as against normal date of June 1

Rules tightened for foreigners extending stay

New Delhi: Foreigners who enter India on a visa valid for 180 days and wish to stay back beyond this period must now register with the competent authority prior to expiry of their visa, instead of the earlier norm which allowed them to register within 14 days of visa expiry, **reports Bharti Jain.**

▶Germany waives transit visa for Indians, P 5

The Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, notified by MHA Monday, also introduce an "only in emergent circumstances" clause for extension of stay for those with a visa for over 180 days, with a single stay not lasting beyond 180 days.

▶Register on app, P 10

In May, crude & LPG supplies to India improved

New Delhi: After registering a dip in March and April due to disruptions in supply flows amid West Asia conflict, crude oil and LPG supplies to India improved in May, though they were yet to return to pre-conflict levels, ship-tracking data from Kpler has revealed, **reports Atul Mathur.**

While India's crude imports, which fell from 5.2 million barrels a day (mbd) in Feb to 4.5 mbd in March-April, recovered slightly to around 4.9 mbd in May, LPG supplies also improved after govt diversified sourcing. Natural gas supplies, however, recovered significantly and surpassed the volumes received in Feb.

▶Russia top supplier, P 10

91 injuries on murdered 18-month-old in Kerala

An autopsy on an 18-month-old boy battered to death by his mother and her partner has revealed 91 wounds on the child's body. Accused Akhila and Ashkar from Nedumangad, Kerala, are currently in custody. P 5

Undertrial No. 71: MIL ex-judge sent to jail

Retired judge Giribala Singh was sent as undertrial No. 71 to two weeks of judicial custody in Bhopal jail in the death case of her daughter-in-law Twisha. TNN

May be arrested but still returning to protest: Dipke

Meet me at the airport." That's the call to supporters from Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke, who intends to return from US on June 6, "fully aware I may be arrested on landing", **reports Ismat Ara.** Dipke's plan "is to lead a peaceful protest demanding immediate resignation of education minister Dharmendra Pradhan over repeated examination failures".

▶'Non-violent', P 11

In sovereignty case, personal liberty takes back seat: SC

New Delhi: Deliberating on the right of an accused to bail, particularly in serious offences, Supreme Court Tuesday said personal liberty would have to take back seat if it is pitted against India's sovereignty, and pointed out a lack of uniform application of prolonged incarceration as grounds for bail has resulted in similarly situated persons receiving different outcomes, **reports Amit Anand Choudhary.**

"We note that recently this court in 'Tasleem Ahmed v. State Govt. of NCT of Delhi' has referred the question concerning the approach of constitutional courts in bail matters under special statutes, where Article 21, prolonged incarceration and statutory restrictions intersect," a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotishwar Singh said. "In view of the said reference, we do not wish to deliberate on this issue further, save and except that in our view paramount consideration is nothing but the interest of justice for all," it said.

▶Supply of drugs, P 10

IN THE COURTS

- An Uttarakhand man accused of a woman's murder **was granted bail by the HC after the DNA report of the unidentified corpse** — initially claimed to be the victim's — was "found to be male" | P 7
- SC on Tuesday ruled that a **dependent married daughter could not be excluded** from the definition of 'family' | P 11
- SC says **criminal proceedings should not be allowed to go on against a loan defaulter** if the bank and the the debtor reached a compromise for settlement | P 11
- CJI Surya Kant on Tuesday administered **oath to five new SC judges** — justices Sheel Nagu, Sanjeev Sachdeva, Arun Palli, Sree Chandrashekhar and V S Mohana

Trump drops F-bomb on Bibi over Lebanon

Continued Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon despite Trump's assurance that Israel and Hezbollah had agreed to de-escalate, triggered a profanity-laced tirade from the US president, targeted at Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, on Monday, according to a new Axios report.

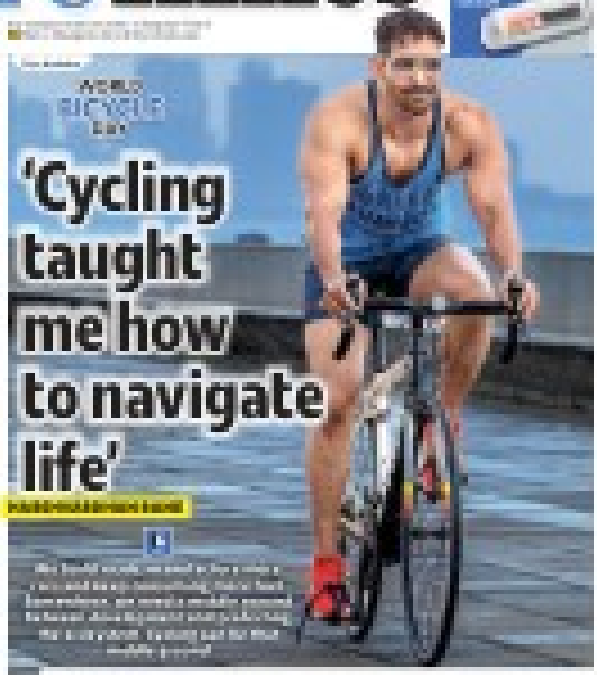
Warning Netanyahu he was "f****** crazy" to expand the war in Lebanon, Trump is reported to have said, "You'd be in prison if it weren't for me." Iran has insisted on a ceasefire in Lebanon for a deal with US. Trump later posted online that he had a "very productive call" with Bibi and "there will be no troops going to Beirut". Page 14

▶'Iran stops talking to mediators', Page 14

Trump said he had persuaded Bibi to call off a strike on Beirut

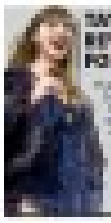
Bangalore Times

'Together, we can make Bengaluru even stronger'



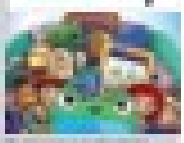
'Cycling taught me how to navigate life'

Salman's legal team sends notice to Kala Hiran makers



TAYLOR SWIFT REVEALS SONG FOR TOY STORY 5

Buzzstop



Delhi model's death in Kerala quarry raises questions

VIP MOVEMENT, PUBLIC FRUSTRATION

Protest reignites VIP traffic debate

TO-DO LIST Task for Shivakumar Is to Establish Distinct Political Identity | Will He Keep Finance Portfolio? | BJP Faces Soul-Searching

Can DKS step out of Siddaramaiah's gigantic shadow?

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Bengaluru: For DK Shivakumar, the journey to the chief minister's office has been long and arduous. After decades of building influence within Congress and emerging as one of the party's most resourceful functionaries, he finally secured the state's top post.

Yet, bigger challenges await. More than running the govt, Shivakumar will have to establish himself as one with a distinct political identity while succeeding Siddaramaiah, arguably Congress' most influential functionary in Karnataka over the past decade.

Political analysts say the transition presents both an opportunity and a challenge. While the CM post gives Shivakumar administrative authority, Siddaramaiah continues to enjoy considerable influence among legislators, ministers and party workers. As a result, the new CM will inevitably be measured by the achievements of his predecessor.

Face of the party

"Becoming CM is one thing and becoming the principal political face of the party is another. Siddaramaiah occupied that space for years," said MN Patil, political commentator. "Shivakumar will have to create his own narrative and convince people that he represents a new phase for Congress in Karnataka."

Observers point out that Shivakumar cannot afford to move away from Siddaramaiah's political legacy too quickly. The Ahinda coalition remains Congress' strongest electoral asset and any perception of weakening that social base could prove costly. Yet, Shivakumar must gradually expand his appeal beyond his traditional Vokkaliga support base if he hopes to emerge as the party's dominant face.

37 YEARS OF DKS' PUBLIC LIFE

- 1989-2026 | MLA
- 1991-1992 | Minister of state prisons, home guards
- 1999-2002 | Cooperation
- 2002-2004 | Urban development
- 2014-2018 | Energy
- June 2018 to Dec 2018 | Irrigation & medical education
- Dec 2018 to July 2019 | Irrigation & Kannada and culture
- 2023-2026 | Deputy CM, irrigation, Bengaluru development

OTHER POSITIONS

- Served as president, Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Project Authority
- President, Karnataka Warehousing Corporation

Source: Karnataka legislative assembly
Text : Pearl Dsouza

"Shivakumar is likely to perform better than Siddaramaiah. He brings organisational strength, connects with people, and understands both urban and rural Karnataka. He can combine vision with action and is suited for this phase of governance. His govt could focus on infrastructure, farmers, jobs and transparent administration. It marks a potential new phase for Karnataka

Hidayathulla Kuvenda | ADVOCATE & POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

The contrast in governance styles is also expected to attract attention. Siddaramaiah's tenure was defined by his command over administration, although many believe he slowed down because of age and health concerns in the second term and his rustic style created a sense of fear among the bureaucracy.

Shivakumar is known to be administratively aggressive and is likely to place greater emphasis on execution, project delivery and visible infrastructure development. Supporters believe his reputation for quick decisions and close monitoring of projects could give administration a different character.

Broader appeal

But analysts caution that governance alone may not suffice. Siddaramaiah combined welfare schemes with a political narrative that resonated across social groups and castes in the state. Shivakumar will need to demonstrate that development and infrastructure can create a similarly broad political appeal while retaining the support of communities that strongly identify with Siddaramaiah.

Also, the relationship between Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah will shape the govt's future. While Siddaramaiah cannot be ignored, Shivakumar will seek greater space to leave his own imprint on the administration.

K Ravichandran, retired political science professor, said every successful CM eventually develops a political identity that stands apart from predecessors. "Siddaramaiah built a model centred on welfare and social coalitions. Shivakumar will need to build a model centred on governance, development, and delivery. The challenge is to do that without losing the social support structure Siddaramaiah created," Ravichandran said.

A LIFE IN FRAMES: CHILDHOOD TO LEADERSHIP

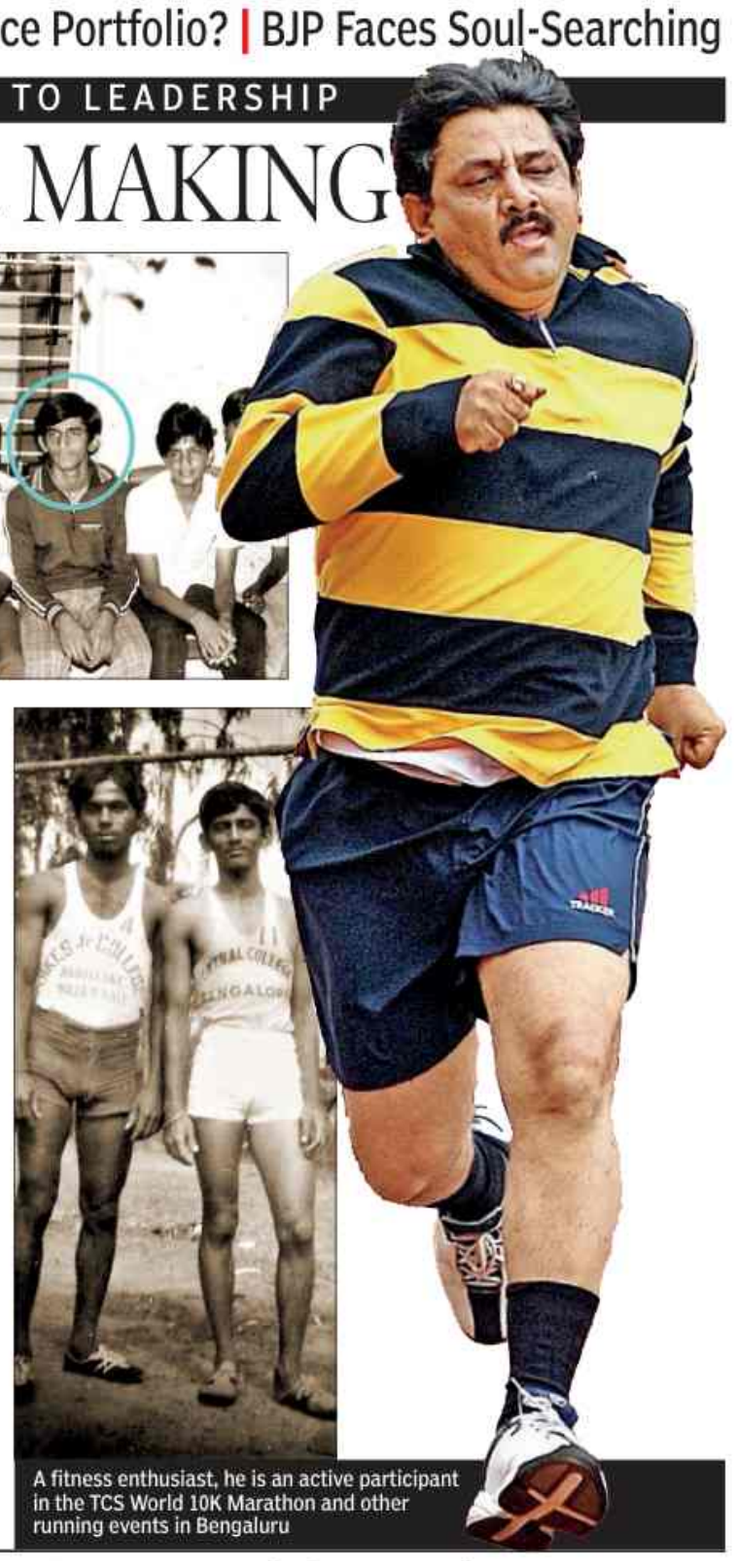
A LEGACY IN THE MAKING

His foray into student politics began in Carmel School, Bengaluru, where he contested for the post of secretary

He began his political career as a student leader and became an MLA in 1989 at the age of 27

Shivakumar was born to Kempegowda and Gowramma in May 1962. He has a younger brother, DK Suresh, and a sister

Shivakumar worked closely with many Congress chief ministers such as SM Krishna and **S Bangarappa**



A fitness enthusiast, he is an active participant in the TCS World 10K Marathon and other running events in Bengaluru

Prisons portfolio and a 35-year-old prediction

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Bengaluru: With DK Shivakumar set to be sworn in as the 25th chief minister, the prisons department, a relatively low-key portfolio, has attracted intrigue and attention.

In an oft repeated anecdote, former chief minister S Bangarappa gave a young Shivakumar charge of the department in 1991 with a remark that has now gained status of a prophecy. Shivakumar himself has repeatedly recalled Bangarappa telling him while allotting him the portfolio: "One day, you too could become CM."

Bangarappa is said to have pointed to earlier instances of individuals — Devaraj Urs and himself — who handled the portfolio going on to be CM. This comparison has helped shape a narrative that the portfolio carried an unusual historical association with higher office.

Shivakumar, who was 28 at the time, has often narrated how he was asked to sit through portfolio allocation and note down portfolios. He said that when he was put in charge of prisons, he questioned the decision only to be given what he describes as a "symbolic explanation" from Bangarappa.

Prison and correctional services department officials say the portfolio existed as a separate ministry under earlier govts but later functioned separately under the home department until it was fully merged, losing its independent status.

Records show that V Somanna served as prisons minister in the JH Patel govt between 1996 and 1999, while B Ramanath Rai also held the portfolio during the M Veerappa Moily govt. Neither went on to become CM.

Yet, the belief that the department is "lucky" holds strong and continues to circulate in political corridors, especially during leadership transitions in the state.

SHORT TAKES

Half-day holiday for staff

To facilitate crowd management and ensure smooth movement of VIPs and the public for DK Shivakumar's oath-taking ceremony, the govt has declared half-day holiday from noon Wednesday for employees at Lok Bhavan and govt offices around, including Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha and MS Building. The ceremony at Lok Bhavan is expected to attract a large gathering of political functionaries, party workers and members of the public.

SWEET SATISFACTION: MLA Srinivas plans to distribute nearly 10 lakh laddus in Nelamangala constituency to celebrate DK Shivakumar's elevation as CM

DKS thanks Gandhi family

A day before taking oath as CM, DK Shivakumar thanked the Gandhi family for their support and faith in him throughout his political journey. In a post on X, Shivakumar said former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi recognised his potential as a young Congress worker and inspired him to dedicate himself to public service. He credited Sonia Gandhi for standing by him during difficult phases of his career and thanked Rahul Gandhi for his guidance, commitment to democratic values, and constant encouragement. He praised Priyanka Gandhi for her accessibility and respect for party workers.

Khader to be minister?

Speaker UT Khader sparked speculation of his possible inclusion in the new council of ministers after he invited officials and employees of the secretariat to a dinner at Vidhana Soudha's Banquet Hall Tuesday. Khader, who was in Mangaluru, dismissed suggestions linking him to a ministerial role, saying he had not received any official communication. He said he continues to remain speaker, and that a decision on new responsibilities rests with party brass.

Aland case: BJP meets guv

A BJP delegation led by Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, opposition leader in the legislative council, met governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot and submitted a memorandum seeking his intervention in the govt's decision to withdraw criminal cases against those allegedly involved in the violence in Aland, Kalaburagi district. The delegation alleged that the move was aimed at appeasement and vote-bank politics and urged the Gehlot to direct the govt to revoke its decision. Narayanaswamy alleged the cases involved serious charges including violence, damage to property and attacks on police personnel.

Managing finance portfolio could be Shivakumar's toughest assignment

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IANS

PULLING STRINGS: Siddaramaiah has breakfast with his coterie including Satish Jarkiholi and HC Mahadevappa in Delhi on Tuesday

Bengaluru: The finance portfolio could emerge one of the most challenging responsibilities for chief minister-designate DK Shivakumar, if he decides to follow convention and handle the department himself.

For two decades, CMs have handled the finance portfolio. The only exception was in 2006-07 when HD Kumaraswamy entrusted it to his coalition partner BS Yediyurappa in the JD(S)-BJP govt.

Some senior functionaries, who support outgoing CM Siddaramaiah, are said to be pressing their claims for the portfolio. Shivakumar's decision on the issue assumes significance since he takes charge at a time when the state's finances are under immense pressure.

He will also be stepping into big shoes of Siddaramaiah, who presented a record 17 budgets, and kept the state within Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act limits — if only just — despite rising expenses.

In the 2026-27 budget, the fiscal deficit was pegged at 2.9% of gross state domestic product, while liabilities stood at 24.9% of GSDP, both within permissible limits. The state's own revenue was projected at Rs 3.15 lakh crore against committed expenditure of nearly Rs 3.4 lakh crore, resulting in a deficit of about Rs 22,950 crore.

Shivakumar will also have to ensure Congress' guarantee schemes continue without disruption while finding room for his own welfare and development initiatives. Any major expansion in spending could further tighten the state's fiscal position.

"Shivakumar has risen to the CM post purely on political strength, and although he has a wealth of administrative experience, he must understand the nuances of planned and unplanned financial impacts on the state," said a bureaucrat.

But Shivakumar's supporters argue that his strength lies in identifying capable people and delegating responsibilities. "He has the knack of picking the right people for tasks. Administratively, he will rely on experienced hands to get the job done," said a Congress MP.

Narendar Pani, economic analyst, said managing the finance portfolio requires a deeper understanding of how economic decisions influence growth and state finances.

"Whoever takes charge of the finance portfolio, needs to understand the connection between economic policies and financial growth of the state," said Pani. "It is to be seen whether the new CM keeps the portfolio and instals able personnel to assist him or hand it over to someone else in his cabinet." That decision may offer an early glimpse of how Shivakumar plans to govern the state.

TOI

INTRIGUING VISIT: DK Suresh, ex-MP and brother of CM-elect DK Shivakumar, called on former minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan at his residence in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The meeting comes a day after an audio clip emerged which purportedly suggested Zameer tried to sabotage Congress' chances in the Davanagere South byelection

DKS effect: Leadership questions confront BJP

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Bengaluru: The elevation of DK Shivakumar as chief minister is expected to trigger a fresh round of introspection within BJP, with discussions already ongoing over top posts, social equations and the party's strategy as the principal opposition.

Shivakumar is known for his organisational skills, political networking and strong influence within the Vokkaliga community, and BJP functionaries are privately debating how best to counter him.

One question being discussed is Karnataka BJP's leadership structure. Shivakumar and BJP state president BY Vijayendra are said to be friends, a relationship which has often been the subject of political speculation. It is now likely to come under greater scrutiny.

Political strategist MB Maramakal said: "Shivakumar is not a conventional Congress chief minister. He is an aggressive politician with a strong organisational network, and direct access to different social groups. BJP will have to recalibrate its strategy and decide whether it wants a confrontational approach or a broader social coalition."

Whether R Ashoka should remain opposition leader is a question that has also sparked debate within sections of BJP since both he and Shivakumar belong to the influential Vokkaliga community. Some functionaries feel the party may require a different social balance in its organisational structure to broaden its appeal.

Names of former minister Sunil Kumar, an OBC face from coastal Karnataka, MLA Aravind Bellad, a young Lingayat and deputy opposition leader, and veteran legislator S Suresh Kumar are being discussed as possible alternatives should the party consider a change.

Many seniors have openly questioned the functioning of the state unit under Vijayendra, arguing that the party needs a more aggressive organisational approach. There is speculation that Union ministers V Somanna and Pralhad Joshi could emerge as contenders if the party's central brass decides to replace Vijayendra amid continuing internal dissent.

Yet, many believe replacing Vijayendra may not be as straightforward as it appears. "There is the TINA factor — there is no alternative at the moment," said a senior functionary. "Many seniors have experience, but few have Vijayendra's ability to manage resources to fight elections. He also enjoys the backing of former CM and father BS Yediyurappa, who remains the tallest Lingayat representative in the state."

"BJP is trying to move beyond dependence on a single individual and community, but Karnataka politics remains deeply influenced by caste equations and regional leadership. With Shivakumar taking over as CM, BJP now faces the task of balancing caste representation, managing internal dissent and building a credible opposition narrative ahead of future elections

Vishwas Shetty | POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

Siddaramaiah's decision gives women hope

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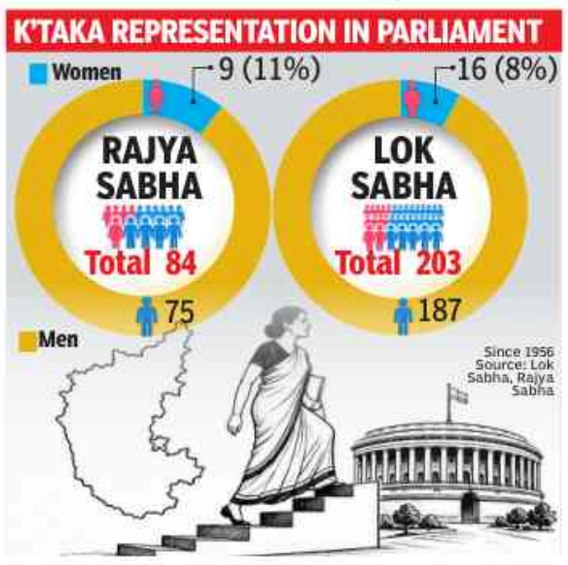
Bengaluru: With caretaker CM Siddaramaiah declining one of four Rajya Sabha seats for which polls have been scheduled on June 18, women contenders are hopeful that the Congress high command may consider their names.

Anjali Nimbalkar, former Khanapur MLA and currently AICC secretary in charge of Goa and Supriya Shrinate, AICC spokesperson, are among those eyeing tickets. Nominations opened Monday.

Just one from state

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman of BJP, a resident of Jayanagar in Bengaluru, is currently the only woman member from Karnataka. First elected in 2014, she is serving her third six-year term after being re-elected in 2022.

Congress' Margaret Alva holds the record for the highest number of terms at four.



In the Lok Sabha, Karnataka has three women MPs: Priyanka Jarkiholi, Prabha Mallikarjun (both Congress), and Shobha Karandlaje (BJP).

The state has so far elected only nine women to the Rajya Sabha since its formation in 1956. The first woman member was freedom fighter Devaki Gopidas of Congress, who served from 1962 to 1968.

Nominations for the latest round of elections close on June 8 and there is still suspense over whether Siddaramaiah may change his mind. Governing Congress can bag three of the four seats.

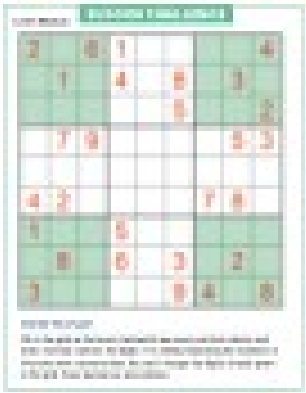
Fine opportunity

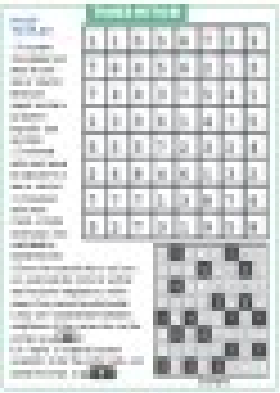
Sandeep Shastri, psephologist, said Congress has the opportunity to signal commitment to women's representation, adding that such a move would strengthen its stance on reservation for women. He said the BJP-JD(S) alliance, which can win only one seat, may find it difficult to field a woman candidate.

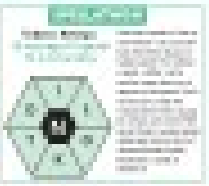
DELHI MODEL PASSES AWAY AFTER DROWNING IN KERALA QUARRY

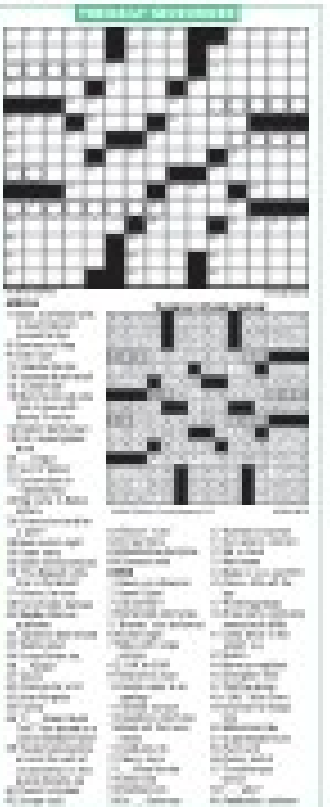
'A gate was installed in 2017 after deaths at the quarry'

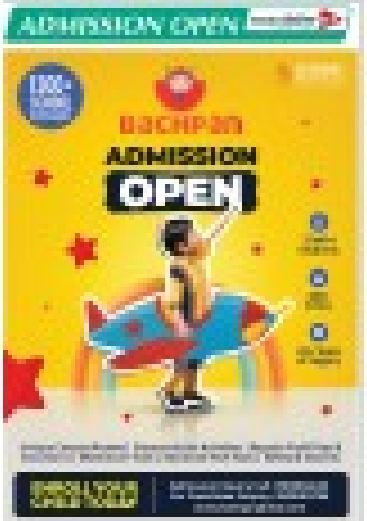
Friend says they visited site for rescue, not a feast

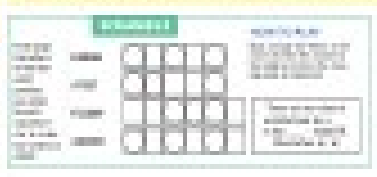


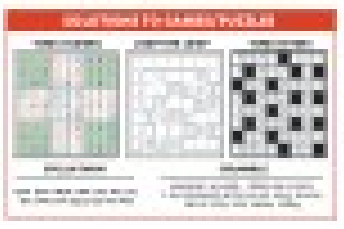












Techie who killed parents is mentally sound, say police

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Was he schizophrenic and did the illness lead him to stab his parents to death? This question haunted everyone when police arrested 33-year-old software engineer Rohan Chandra on charges of stabbing his parents — Naveen Chandra Bhat, a retired Navy captain, and Shyamala Bhat — in their villa in Vignan Nagar near HAL Township in Feb.

CHARGESHEET FILED

A neighbour, Dr Madhavi Nair, was among the witnesses to the attack and shifted the couple to Manipal Hospital on Old Airport Road, where she worked. However, both victims were declared brought dead.

While taking statements from neighbours and witnesses, cops learnt Shyamala told them that Rohan was facing anxiety issues and was schizophrenic. Based on it, cops shifted him to Nimhans.

However, after a week's observation and treatment, doctors at Nimhans declared Rohan a fit person, and there were no signs of stress or anxiety or schizophrenia, said deputy commissioner of police (Whitefield) Saidulu Adavath.

"The doctors clearly gave us a green signal, stating we could subject Rohan to interrogation and later produce him before the court. With that certificate, we continued our investigation and subjected Rohan to detailed questioning," he said.

According to findings by the investigators, Rohan was mainly upset over two issues. His parents denied him financial help of Rs 10 lakh, which he wanted to invest in a startup he wished to launch. Having completed a master's in artificial intelligence in the US, Rohan wanted to start a company that could serve AI tools. But his parents denied him the money, stating he must get a job.

Secondly, his father was not allowing Rohan to port his mobile number from Jio to Airtel, police said.

"Rohan had used the Jio number for a long time and shared it with others. He wanted to retain the number and switch to Airtel. But his father declined the request. On the fateful day, Feb 11, a heated argument broke out between Rohan and his parents and ended in the brutal murder," the police chargesheet explains.

The chargesheet, running into around 500 pages, contains statements from around 40 witnesses and includes reports from a forensic science laboratory.

The forensic reports confirm that the blood stains found on Rohan were that of his parents. This establishes the fact beyond doubt that Rohan was the killer of the couple, police said.

Rohan Bhat

Naveen Chandra

Shyamala

FRICTION & FATAL STABBINGS

- **Feb 10 night:** Rohan enters into a heated argument with his father, demanding Rs 10 lakh to fund a startup. His parents refuse to provide the capital, leading to intense friction overnight
- **Feb 11 – 7am:** As Naveen gets ready for a morning walk, Rohan repeats his financial demand. Naveen screams at Rohan to leave the house and allegedly strikes him with the stock of an airgun and in retaliation, Rohan grabs a kitchen knife and repeatedly stabs both parents
- **8:15 am:** Neighbours rush the couple to Manipal Hospital, where doctors declare them brought dead
- **8:30 am:** Morning walkers notice Rohan fleeing in bloodstained clothes. HAL police arrest him

RCB victory: Youth held for attacking cops

Bengaluru: A youngster has been arrested in connection with violence that broke out during celebrations of RCB's victory in the IPL final late Sunday night.

Sudesh, 22, a resident of KR Pura who works at a private firm, was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident, police said.

Around 11.30pm, three men arrived at Banaswadi on a motorcycle and allegedly began shouting slogans at the top of their voice in support of RCB, causing inconvenience to residents.

When policemen on duty advised them not to create disturbance, the situation allegedly took an ugly turn. One of the men reportedly got off the motorcycle and confronted the officers. He then allegedly abused the policemen, grabbed a constable and pushed him to the ground.

Police said when the officers attempted to apprehend him, the other two men joined him. The trio then abandoned the motorcycle at the scene and fled. Investigators tracked down and arrested Sudesh. TNN

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CHIEF GUEST

- **D K Shivakumar,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

KEY SPEAKERS

- **Omar Abdullah,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir
- **Revanth Reddy,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana
- **Jayant Chaudhary,** MoS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India
- **Hervé Delphin,** EU Ambassador to India
- **H E Mr Xu Feihong,** Ambassador of China to India
- **Philip Green,** Australian High Commissioner to India
- **S Krishnan,** Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
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- **Manoj Bajpayee,** Actor

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Topic: Do platforms like TikTok harm students' mental health more than they help?

Parents: We are wasting resources

▶ Continued from page 1

Schools are depending on e-books available on ncert.nic.in and DIKSHA app. A temporary solution is to keep one set for 15 students as reference copies in libraries," added Veda Prashanth.

Most schools use NCERT-based books till class 6. Higher grades use NCERT-published books. "Distributors tell us they send us books whenever they get them. They don't know yet when textbooks for grade 9 social science will be available," said the principal of a leading chain of schools.

"We can't place bulk orders. We've uploaded soft copies on our internal platform and have asked students to use them," said another principal.

Parents are irked. "We are taking printouts every day. What a waste of resources! Isn't it elementary that NCERT must make books available when schools reopen? And grade 9 is an advanced class," said Nirmal R, a parent.

PD Anjanappa of Sree Dhanalakshmi Book Centre on Avenue Road said they have no stocks as no books have arrived this year. "Old ones have been sold out. We see parents and students hopping from one shop to another in panic," he said.

Sandeep Pai S, chairman of Bangalore Sahodaya, said academic calendars between north and south Indian schools differ. "North Indian schools need textbooks only in July. Here, we've to complete class 9 exam early and prepare students for class 10," he said.

Open-jeep procession after oath?

▶ Continued from page 1

The final contours of the schemes are yet to be firmed up. Functionaries privy to discussions said financial implications will be reviewed since state govt is already implementing five guarantee schemes.

A cabinet meeting at Vidhana Soudha is expected to clear the schemes, and Shivakumar may make a formal announcement.

Though the swearing-in event was initially planned as a low-key affair due to concerns over traffic disruption, it has now drawn a large mobilisation of supporters. Party workers from across the state, particularly from Old Mysuru region, are expected to attend in large numbers. Officials estimate that bookings have been made for more than 17,000 vehicles to reach Bengaluru for the ceremony.

Senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal and Siddaramaiah are expected to attend the event. Shivakumar has invited representatives from multiple faiths, signalling an emphasis on inclusivity and communal harmony.

After the oath, he is planning an open-jeep procession from Lok Bhavan to Vidhana Soudha, with the stretch placed under tight security. Police have ordered a complete halt to traffic movement along the route during the procession to ensure crowd control and convoy safety.

Probe exposes family's murder plot faked as midnight robbery

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chikkaballapur: A midnight robbery, two burqa-clad intruders and a grieving sister-in-law pepper-sprayed in the dark — the initial report of 23-year-old B Pushpalatha's murder had all the hallmarks of a brutal heist gone wrong. But when Chikkaballapur superintendent of police Kushal Chouksey stepped into the crime scene at Bapujinagar, his instincts flashed a warning. What followed was a forensic deduction that shattered a family's elaborate cover-up within hours.

On the night of May 28, Chikkaballapur police control room received a frantic call from Bhavya, the victim's sister-in-law. She claimed two masked attackers had forced their way inside, blinded her with pepper spray, assaulted her and slit the throat of Pushpalatha — a contract employee with the local RTO — before fleeing with her mangalsutra.

Bhavya then checked herself into a local hospital for treatment. When Chouksey and his team visited Bhavya's hospital bed, her tale began to unravel.

The fatal cut on Pushpalatha's neck had minimal blood flow. This proved she was smothered to death before her throat was slit.

Pushpalatha (top left) was target of sister in-law Bhavya and Lohit

Medical examination showed zero traces of pepper spray on Bhavya. Her body bore no signs of the "severe beating" she'd claimed.

"She also had no logical explanation for why she opened the door to strangers at midnight," Chouksey noted. Armed with doctors' clearance, a team of women police officers, alongside Chouksey, commenced interrogation and Bhavya broke down.

The investigation uncovered a dark history of domestic discord and extortion. Bhavya recently returned to her parents' home after deserting her husband at Hoskote to elope with a truck driver, Krishna. The romance quickly soured when Krishna began blackmailing Bhavya with private videos. Desperate, Bhavya confided in a relative, Lohit (alias Lolly). Lohit demanded the videos and launched his own extortion racket.

He successfully bled Bhavya of Rs 6 lakh across two transactions, squandering the fortune on gambling and alcohol. When Lohit demanded more cash, Bhavya narrated the blackmail to her mother, N Vijayalakshmi, and grandmother, Nagamma. Together, the three women hatched a sinister plot: They would orchestrate a fake robbery, use Lohit to eliminate Pushpalatha over a family feud and steal her gold to satisfy the extortionist.

On May 27, Pushpalatha's husband, Bharath, and his father left for a pilgrimage to Tamil Nadu. Though Pushpalatha lived separately, Bhavya invited her over so she "wouldn't be alone." At midnight, Bhavya unlocked the front door. Lohit slipped inside, smothered the sleeping 23-year-old with a pillow and then slit her throat to fake a violent robbery. He ripped the mangalsutra from her neck and vanished.

The plot to pin the murder on fictional, burqa-clad thieves collapsed. Police arrested Lohit, Bhavya, Vijayalakshmi and Nagamma.

Caught on cam: Two men set scooter afire

Bengaluru: Two miscreants set a parked scooter on fire in Doddagowdanapalya on Subramanyapura Main Road, south Bengaluru, Sunday. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed in a nearby building.

The footage shows two men arriving on a scooter at 1.10am. The pillion rider, dressed in a yellow hoodie, gets off the vehicle and walks towards a Honda Activa parked by the roadside. The scooter belongs to Veeresh, a daily-wage labourer.

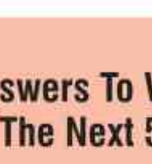
The footage shows the miscreant pouring petrol on the scooter and setting it on fire before walking away.

As the CCTV footage went viral, Subramanyapura police contacted Veeresh and recorded his complaint Monday. TNN

PIL challenges norms on drains' buffer zones

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court Tuesday ordered notice to govt, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) in response to a public interest litigation filed by an NGO challenging the notification prescribing new norms for buffer zones around stormwater drains.



A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice KS Hemalekha directed the respondents to file their responses.

Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath challenged the Oct 15, 2025 notification on SWD buffer zones in Bengaluru Metropolitan Area – 15 metres on either side for primary drain, 10 metres for secondary and 5 metres for tertiary drain – claiming it seeks to reduce the existing limit substantially. Reducing buffer zones increases flooding, endangering lives, property and safety, the petitioner said.

National Green Tribunal has also said buffer zones around drains and waterbodies must be preserved and cannot be reduced by executive action, the NGO pointed out.

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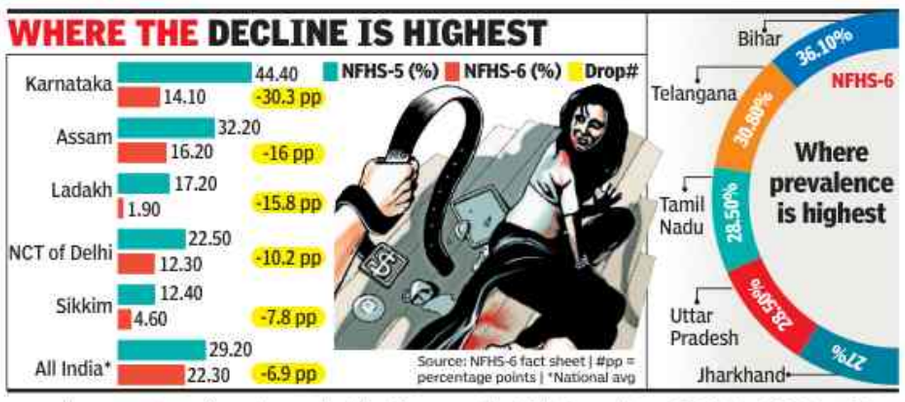
44% to 14%, K'taka sees sharpest fall in spousal violence

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka has recorded the steepest fall in spousal violence, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) fact-sheet, dropping from 44.4% to 14.1% of ever-married women reporting abuse between 2019-21 and 2023-24.



NAT'L FAMILY SURVEY

The decline of over 30 percentage points dwarfs every other state. Nationally, India's spousal violence rate fell from 29.2% to 22.3%. Karnataka topping the table of the sharpest decline is in contrast with the state's position in the previous survey.

In NFHS-5, Karnataka was the worst-performing state in the country on spousal violence, followed by Bihar (40.1%), Tamil Nadu (38.1%), Telangana (37.2%) and Chhattisgarh (40.1%). In NFHS-6, Karnataka sits in the middle of the national distribution, comfortably below the likes of Bihar (36.1%), Telangana (30.8%), and Tamil Nadu (28.5%), which remain the states with the highest reported rates.

Assam, the second-biggest mover, reduced its rate from 32.2% to 16.2%, a 16-point drop. Karnataka's figure is nearly double that. A 30-point decline in a single cycle, while not impossible, is rare in survey data of this kind.

To address concerns of whether such a massive improvement was a result of change in the questionnaire, which could have elicited different answers,

TOI compared questionnaires of NFHS-5 and 6. The question structure, routing logic, and response options all appear identical between the two rounds.

Prof CM Lakshmana, head of Population Research Centre (PRC) at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (Isec), which conducted NFHS-6 in 15 districts in south Karnataka, told **TOI**: "I feel the decline reflects not one reform, but many — fewer child marriages, better education, greater financial inclusion and women's stronger voice in households. Empowerment, when structural and sustained, becomes the most powerful shield against domestic violence."

Explanations for the massive improvement may come once there's a thorough review of interviewer selection and training.

All these, however, are expected to become public only when the full report for the state is released by the ministry of health and family welfare. What is not in dispute is the national trend: across India, spousal violence is falling.

The full NFHS-6 state report for Karnataka, expected to contain disaggregated data and methodological notes, may hold some answers. Until then, the headline number is both a reason for hope and a prompt for harder questions.

Ex-MLC says gang abducted him, demanded ₹2cr cash

Bengaluru: A 63-year-old former MLC has filed a criminal complaint alleging that four men posing as contract killers abducted him, held him at gunpoint and released him after he promised to pay them Rs 2 crore.

The complainant, Dayananda Reddy of Bommasandra in Anekal, told Attibele police the incident occurred around 12.30am Tuesday while he was returning home from Gold Coin Club on Huskur Road.

In his complaint, Reddy said two men on a motorcycle blocked his Toyota Velfire near a temple in Heelalige and claimed that "madam" had sent a gift. When his driver stepped out to collect the purported gift box, the men allegedly entered the vehicle and threatened Reddy with a gun. After driving a short distance, they stopped near a red sedan bearing a Kerala registration number. Two more men emerged from the car, ordered the driver to leave and allegedly took Reddy to a secluded spot in KHB Colony. There, the four men told him they were supari killers who had accepted Rs 10 crore to murder him.

Reddy said he pleaded for his life and offered money instead. The men allegedly agreed to spare him and demanded Rs 2 crore in cash by afternoon. Before leaving, one of them identified himself as Praveen and shared a mobile number. No arrests have been made so far. TNN

B'luru draped in Cong colours, but giant cutouts fail to make the cut

No Green Signal In Vicinity Of HC, Vidhana Soudha

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pics: TOI & Chethan Shivakumar

DECKED UP: Many roads are adorned with colourful banners, hoardings & party flags

Bengaluru: Celebrating the swearing-in of DK Shivakumar as chief minister of Karnataka, Congress workers and supporters have put up banners, buntings, and welcome arches across the city.

However, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and city police are said to have denied permission for the installation of towering cutouts of Shivakumar, outgoing CM Siddaramaiah, and other senior Congress functionaries in the vicinity of Vidhana Soudha and high court, ahead of the swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan Wednesday.

Congress insiders told **TOI** workers had planned to install 30ft-tall cutouts of Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah, and members of the high command along the stretch facing Vidhana Soudha from the HC premises. "The cutouts had already been designed and readied for installation. Workers had even erected wooden support structures near Dr BR Ambedkar Vidhana Soudha Metro station. However, police and govt authorities declined permission at the last moment, forcing us to dismantle the structures. Since the cutouts cannot be installed in Vidhana Soudha zone, we are now exploring alternative locations in Bengaluru," said a Congress functionary.

Police officers cited security and traffic management concerns for denying permission. "The stretch between Vidhana Soudha and high court is one of the city's most sensitive zones. Any temporary structure, particularly large cutouts and flex boards, requires approvals from multiple agencies and is subject to stringent regulations. Given the security arrangements and expected movement of dignitaries and supporters for the swearing-in ceremony, permission for such installations could not be granted," said a senior police officer supervising preparations for Wednesday's event.

Despite the restrictions in and around Vidhana Soudha, celebrations were visible across much of Bengaluru. Major roads were adorned with colourful banners, hoardings, and party flags congratulating Shivakumar. Ambedkar Veedhi, the arterial stretch between Vidhana Soudha and HC, was lined with Congress flags, while Ballari Road was decked up with banners and buntings put up by supporters.

Kanakapura Road, which leads to Shivakumar's home constituency and passes through south Bengaluru, witnessed some of the most elaborate displays. Large hoardings and flex boards dotted the route at Silk Institute junction, Talaghattapura, Vajarahalli, and Doddakallasandra. Several pillars of Metro's Green Line corridor between Konanakunte and Jaraganahalli Circle were also covered with giant flexes carrying congratulatory messages and images of the new CM.

The denial of permission for cutouts and hoardings in central Bengaluru stems from longstanding high court directions against illegal public advertisements. Acting on a 2017 PIL seeking removal of unauthorised flexes and implementation of the Karnataka Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, the court in 2018 ordered FIRs against violators. While disposing of the PIL in 2025, it directed strict enforcement of the Advertisement Bylaws, 2024, empowering civic authorities to remove unauthorised displays.

TRAFFIC CURBS FORCE SCHOOL CHANGES

With traffic snarls expected in the city Wednesday owing to the swearing-in ceremony, some schools have decided to change timings or go online.

Delhi Public School-Bangalore South has decided to hold online classes. Principal Anitha Bijesh said the decision was taken after traffic police informed the school that there would be restrictions on roads. "We did not want students and parents to be inconvenienced by the traffic regulations. At the same time, we did not want classes to be disrupted. So we've decided to conduct classes virtuall," she said.

In a note, the school informed students' parents that traffic restrictions would be in place on Kanakapura Road from 7am to 5pm, potentially affecting travel.

Meanwhile, Bishop Cotton Boys School has decided to have a half-day, with classes ending at 12.30pm and school buses departing by 12.45pm. The office will also close at 2pm. TNN

City braces for gridlock as new CM takes oath

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chethan Shivakumar

ELABORATE ARRANGEMENTS

Bengaluru: The city is set to witness heightened security and significant traffic restrictions Wednesday, as the new chief minister takes oath at Glass House in Lok Bhavan at 4pm.

With several dignitaries, political leaders and VVIPs from across the country expected to attend, police have announced extensive traffic diversions and parking restrictions across central business district (CBD) from noon to 8pm. Police have warned commuters to expect heavy congestion around Lok Bhavan, Race Course Road, Cubbon Road, Queens Road, Dr BR Ambedkar Road and adjoining areas. Access to the venue will be restricted to invited guests.

Several key roads, including stretches of Cubbon Road from BRV Junction to CTO Junction and from CTO Circle to Lok Bhavan, Race Course Road from Trilight Junction to Subbanna Junction, St Mark's Road towards CTO Junction, Dr BR Ambedkar Road, and routes leading to Lok Bhavan will remain closed to traffic during the event. Motorists travelling towards the airport, Hebbal, Shivajinagar and other parts of the city have been advised to use alternative routes through Cunningham Road, Vasanth Nagar, Nrupathunga Road and Outer Ring Road to head towards KIA.

Parking will be prohibited on over 20 major roads in and around CBD, including Queens Road, Palace Road, Kasturba Road, Millers Road, Infantry Road, KG Road, Nrupathunga Road, Devaraj Urs Road, Race Course Road and internal roads within Cubbon Park.

Special parking arrangements have been made for pass holders at Vidhana Soudha and the surrounding areas of Vikasa Soudha, the LH parking area behind Lok Bhavan, and Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium.

Meanwhile, the movement of heavy vehicles across city limits will be completely restricted from noon to 10pm, to facilitate the smooth movement of VVIP convoys and manage the expected crowds.

Police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh held a meeting with his subordinates Tuesday and reviewed the security measures. Around 2,200 civil police personnel and 1,300 traffic cops will be deployed for the security arrangements.

No-fly zone declared

Security has been stepped up ahead of the swearing-in ceremony and the visit of senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi. Singh has declared temporary no-fly zones around KPCC office and Shangri-La Hotel, where Rahul is expected to stay. The operation of drones, UAVs, gliders, small aircraft and non-scheduled aircraft will be prohibited within a 1km radius of both locations. Restrictions around KPCC office will remain from 6am to 10pm Wednesday, while those around the hotel will be in force from 6am Wednesday to 6pm Thursday. Violations will invite legal action.

—TN Laasya

Residents left sitting on trash as garbage collection falters

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

TOI

Bengaluru: The stench of rotting garbage, swarms of insects around waste bins, and piles of trash accumulating inside homes have become a daily reality for many residents as door-to-door garbage collection continues to remain irregular in many parts of the city.

While some residents told **TOI** that waste is being collected once in two days, others said collection has become as infrequent as once a week in their localities. Several of them said despite their filing online complaints with Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML), no action has been taken so far.

Residents, particularly from south Bengaluru, said some garbage blackspots have remained uncleared for close to four days. "Why should we pay solid waste management user fee to BSWML if garbage can't be collected properly?" one angry resident asked.

A resident from Marathahalli, east Bengaluru, said the garbage-collection vehicle did not visit the area for close to 4-5 days. "There are PGs on our road and after four days (on Tuesday), a different vehicle came in the afternoon and collected garbage only from those PGs. Individual houses were not allowed to hand over their waste. However, I still managed to hand over my garbage. By then, I started noticing bugs in my wet waste," the resident said.

"Garbage has been lying uncleared for at least 4-5 days. Despite lodging complaints through the app and GBA's WhatsApp numbers, I was redirected between departments and received no response from the solid waste management team. Many residents are forced to leave waste on empty roadsides, which stray dogs scatter across the streets
Chaya VBR | HBR LAYOUT RESIDENT

"While wet waste collection has become regular over the past month, that of dry waste continues to be a major concern. Earlier, dry waste vehicle would visit once every two days, but now it comes only once a week or sometimes after 10 days. We have no option but to store and pile up waste at home
Lakapati | BOMMASANDRA RESIDENT

"For senior citizens, irregular garbage collection creates serious hygiene concerns. When waste is not collected for days, people are forced to keep it outside their homes. During rain, garbage overflows onto roads, clogs drains and creates foul smell
Sunil Pichamuthu | REST HOUSE ROAD RESIDENT

BSWML CEO Karee Gowda said he was not aware of the issue but would check with assistant general managers concerned. However, sources in BSWML said the problem could be linked to resistance from existing contractors as the proposed 21 new garbage-collection packages await govt approval.

Evening showers: Flooded roads & traffic jam on ORR

Bengaluru: One spell of heavy rain brought the city's tech corridor to a standstill, once again exposing the vulnerability of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch to waterlogging and traffic congestion. Flooded roads and slow-moving vehicles led to massive delays across key IT hubs Tuesday evening.

The infamous Panathur stretch witnessed severe flooding despite recent widening of the railway underpass and Panathur S-Cross. Residents said while road-widening works had been completed, no corresponding drainage works were taken up, resulting in waterlogging at the underpass for several hours.

The impact was felt across ORR, with traffic snarls reported from Bellandur, Doddanakundi, and Devarabeesanahalli stretches. Pavitra Holla, a regular ORR commuter, said, "I left office around 5pm but reached home, 7km away, only at 7.40pm. The roads were waterlogged and the poor condition of parallel stretches added pressure on ORR." TNN

METRO WRAP

Film shoots in govt schools banned

The school education department has prohibited the shooting of films, TV serials, and documenataries on govt school premises across Karnataka, citing concerns over student safety, privacy and disruption of academic activities. In a circular issued on May 30, the department directed officials not to grant permission for such activities since they could interfere with regular classroom teaching, academic schedules and curriculum-based programmes. The circular said school principals are responsible for ensuring the safety and welfare of students and, therefore, must not permit use of premises for private, commercial, or non-educational programmes.

3 new trains on Yellow Line

Namma Metro's Yellow Line will see two additional trains from Wednesday as Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd inducts new trainsets to improve frequency and reduce waiting time for commuters. With this, 10 trains will operate daily on the corridor. On weekdays, services will run every seven minutes during peak hours, improved from nine minutes, and every 10 minutes during non-peak hours, as against the earlier 14 minutes. On weekends, trains will run at 10-minute intervals throughout the day.

54 trains cancelled

54 trains will be cancelled and dozens more diverted or delayed over the next five weeks as South Western Railway (SWR) undertakes the commissioning of Whitefield yard phase I and yard remodelling work linked to the quadrupling project between Bengaluru Cantonment and Whitefield stations. The disruptions will start from Wednesday till July 8. Bengaluru–Chennai corridor will be among the worst hit, with several long-distance and suburban services cancelled on multiple dates.

Youth drives jeep at elephant for reels

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chikkamagaluru: A shocking video clip of a youth's reckless behaviour in a forest area went viral **(in pic)** on social media Tuesday. In the footage, the youngster is seen driving an open-top jeep directly towards a wild elephant. Angered by the vehicle's approach, the wild elephant gives a chase. The incident took place Monday and the youngster is said to have performed the stunt solely to create social media reels.

The individual was found to be a resident of Bhadravati, and the incident took place along Chikkamagaluru-Shivamogga border, authorities said. There are suspicions that the younster illegally entered the restricted Bhadra Tiger Reserve in his open jeep.

The incident is believed to have occurred in Bhadra backwaters region of NR Pura taluk. Bhadra forest officials have launched a thorough investigation.

Bhadra Tiger Reserve project director Pulkit Meena confirmed that the youth was questioned Tuesday evening and that legal action would be initiated.

Stories of recovery: Human libraries may spread across state after pilot

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Bengaluru: After a pilot project that saw hundreds of people openly share their experiences of living with mental illness in rural Karnataka, the health department is now considering expanding its unique Manasa Samvaada — the human library initiative — across the state in partnership with the rural development and panchayat raj (RDPR) department.

The programme, inspired by the global human library model, encourages people with lived experience of mental health conditions to become 'books' and share their personal journeys with community members who are called 'readers'.

"The project aimed to minimise mental health stigma and prejudice in rural communities using the human library approach, while also enhancing mental health literacy, promoting empathy and building sustainable community-based mental health awareness infrastructure," said Dr Rajani Parthasarathy, deputy director, mental health. The two-year initiative was launched in Sept 2024 with field implementation and data collection occurring primarily from March 2025 through March 2026.

It was carried out in Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru South districts. The sessions were conducted in gram panchayat libraries, community centres, govt hospitals, schools and colleges, besides being integrated with district mental health programme (DMHP) activities.

During the pilot, 279 individuals with lived experience of mental illness were identified and trained to participate as 'books'. Of them, 236 eventually came forward to share their stories publicly. Their narratives covered a range of mental health conditions, including anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, OCD, substance abuse, and dissociative disorders. "The project engaged 2,218 community members as readers. These participants included auto drivers, ASHA workers, residents, policemen, teachers, degree students, college lecturers and retired govt officials," Dr Rajani said, adding that interaction dates and times were communicated with panchayats, librarians and healthcare workers to encourage their attendance at upcoming sessions.

One story that stood out during the programme, according to officials, was that of a woman from Doddaballapur who faced discrimination and mistreatment from family because of her mental illness. They said after receiving treatment, she not only rebuilt her life but also began helping others. "This success provides a foundation for potential larger-scale stigma reduction initiatives," Dr Rajani said.

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OBITUARY

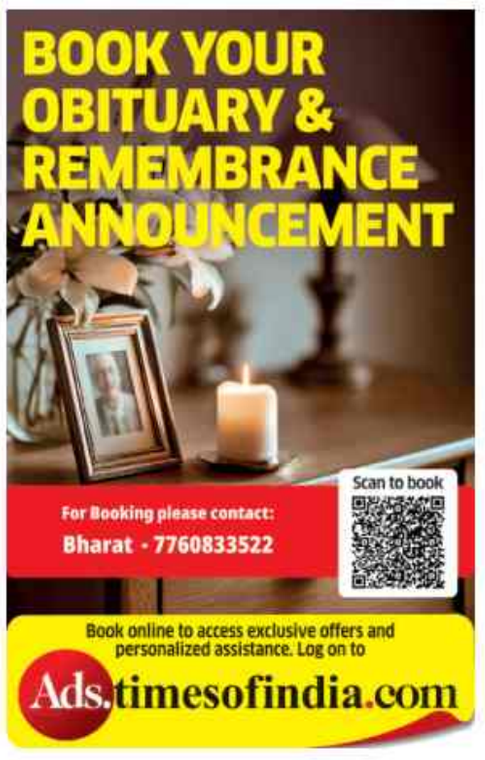
SAD DEMISE

SAD DEMISE

ANTHONY JAMES THOMAS
19.02.1948 to 01.06.2026
"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Tim 4:7
FUNERAL SERVICE
03.06.2026 at Sacred Heart Church, Richmond Road, Blore. 12 p.m
Followed by Burial at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Hosur Road.
Deeply mourned by Loving Wife, Sons, Brother, Sisters & Grand children

SAD DEMISE

Sara Martin
79 years
Wife of Late Richmond Martin
01 Jun 2026 at Bangalore.
Funeral service at St James CSI Malayalam Church, Lingarajapuram at 10 AM on 03 Jun 2026, Burial at Gate No.1, Christian Cemetery, Hosur Road, Bangalore
Children: Sushma Martin and Sushil Martin
Daughter in law - Archana
Grandson - Ethan



A true leader creates more leaders, says DK Shivakumar

On Bengaluru's global standing, its talent pool and the ever-growing industries

On Bengaluru's infrastructure and future plans

On the Kannada film industry

On Bengaluru's rise as the Silicon Valley of India and as an international destination for innovation

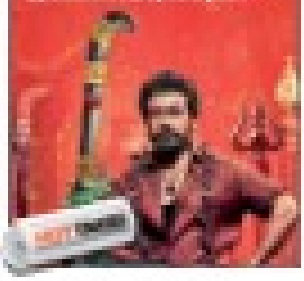
On his personal connection with Bengaluru's cultural life

UP TO DATE

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS AND WHY

Samay Raina says 'Help me' after AI-generated video featuring him and Ranveer Allahbadia goes viral

Suriya gifts Karuppu over Retrash edition ears following the film's success



The proposed film is defamatory: Salman's notice to Kala Hiran makers

'Reputation and goodwill are inseparable elements of an actor'

Delhi HC orders removal of AI-generated content using Varun Dhawan, Naga Chaitanya's personas

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

'BETRAYAL OF ENTIRE GENERATION': THAROOR SLAMS NEET PAPER LEAK, BACKS KERALA STAND ON VANDE MATARAM ROW

MAHA GOVT WON'T SCRAP LADKI BAHIN SCHEME; BENEFITS TO CONTINUE FOR 1.7CR ELIGIBLE WOMEN, SAYS FADNAVIS

HACK OF THE DAY — **AUTO-SHARE FAMILY PHOTOS WITH ONE PERSON**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps families avoid repeatedly asking each other to send photos of children, parents, or shared events

WHAT TO DO: Use Google Photos Partner Sharing to automatically share selected photos with a trusted person

STEPS:

1. **Open** Google Photos
2. **Go to** Photos settings and then Sharing
3. **Select** Partner Sharing
4. **Choose** what to share, such as all photos, a date range, or selected people if available
5. **Invite** only a trusted partner; review settings regularly

CAREFUL: This can share a lot of personal photos automatically. Set the scope carefully before inviting someone

SCAN FOR MORE

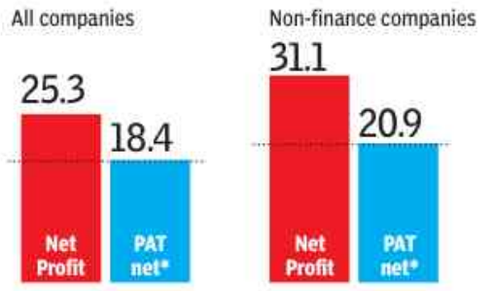
Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

India Inc set to make record profits, but there's a catch

Fewer than half of Indian companies have reported results for Jan-March 2026. But their profits for the last quarter of FY26 are higher than the previous one (Oct-Dec) for all firms combined. However, 12% of the gains came from **one-time extraordinary items** like asset sales or tax benefits

Corporate sector performance (Y-o-Y % change, Jan-March '26)



Source: CMIE; *Net profit minus extraordinary transactions

Annamalai submits resignation; BJP TN chief summoned to Delhi

Party Hopeful of Retaining, But He's 'Not Reconsidering'

Shanmughasundaram.J
@timesofindia.com

Union home minister Amit Shah with Annamalai in New Delhi on Tuesday

Chennai: Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai tendered Tuesday his resignation to party national president Nitin Nabin, triggering fresh turbulence within the state's saffron camp after the party's crushing defeat in April's assembly polls, when it won just one of 27 contested seats.

Annamalai, 42, submitted his resignation along with a detailed report laying out what he described as reasons behind BJP's electoral collapse. Neither he nor the party has publicly commented on the move. The resignation set political circles abuzz in New Delhi. Hours later, Annamalai met Union home minister Amit Shah and explained his decision. BJP's central command also summoned state president Nainar Nagenthran, who flew to New Delhi from Thiruvananthapuram in the evening.

Party insiders said BJP brass believes Annamalai may yet be persuaded to stay. "He is not quitting," a BJP functionary said, expressing confidence after his meetings with Shah and Nabin. Sources close to Annamalai, however, maintained there had been no change in his stand.

In his resignation letter, Annamalai reportedly thanked BJP's national brass for entrusting him with the state president's post for nearly four years. The accompanying report allegedly argued that he had been sidelined within the party.

The former IPS officer — a critic of Dravidian majors DMK and AIADMK — pointed to what he called strategic blunders behind BJP's electoral nosedive. According to party sources, he blamed decisions such as the alliance with AIADMK for dragging BJP's vote share down from 11% in 2024 Lok Sabha polls to just 3% in assembly elections. BJP's tally in 234-member assembly was four in 2021.

Behind the scenes, speculation is swirling over Annamalai's political future. Sources close to him said he had decided months ago to sever ties with BJP and launch a regional political outfit aimed at tapping Tamil Nadu's local aspirations. His own aspirations may have accelerated after actor Vijay led his new party TVK to a spectacular win in assembly polls.

"He is now putting his plans into action. Being part of a national party limits his growth. There could be an exodus of second-rung functionaries and cadres from BJP once he forms the party," a Tamil Nadu BJP functionary close to Annamalai said.

Annamalai had signalled a major announcement was imminent, saying Monday he would reveal his next course of action "in two days".

Kerala toddler murder: Autopsy reveals 91 injuries

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: An 18-month-old boy who died on May 29 after being rushed to hospital by his mother's partner, who claimed the child had choked on food, bore 91 wounds, including a fractured rib, according to the autopsy report that Kerala police said exposes prolonged torture and directly contradicts his account of events.

Police arrested A Ashkar, 30, the following day and later took in to custody the child's mother, 21-year-old Akhila, after uncovering what investigators described as a pattern of constant abuse that ended in Arshid's death in Nedumangad on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram.

PROLONGED TORTURE

Autopsy found that the toddler died from severe trauma and internal bleeding caused by wounds to his head and chest. Investigators said Tuesday the findings have strengthened murder and child cruelty charges against Ashkar, who allegedly confessed to repeatedly assaulting the boy because he viewed him as an obstacle to his relationship with Akhila and their plans to live together.

Doctors grew suspicious after Ashkar brought an unresponsive Arshid to a private hospital on May 29, allegedly claiming he had choked while eating. The child was shifted to SAT Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram, where he was declared dead.

Police found assault marks during inquest proceedings. The boy's maternal and paternal grandfathers said the body had circular burn marks, suggesting cigarette burns. Investigators are re-examining an earlier arm fracture suffered by the toddler. Ashkar and Akhila had allegedly attributed that injury to a fall from a staircase, but police now suspect foul play. Police said charges of abetment will be added against Akhila.

Investigators alleged she was aware of repeated assaults on her son but failed to intervene, report them or seek help. She has been named a co-accused in the case.

Missing climber case exposes fake permit racket

Ashish Mishra | TNN

Uttarkashi: The search for Babita Pandey, 24, an MBA student from Nainital who went missing from Ghoi campsite on the Dayara Bugyal trek around midnight on May 29, has exposed an alleged fake-permit racket in which her name and those of her two co-trekkers were pasted on an expired physical permit to bypass mandatory registration, environmental fees and daily trail-cap checks, officials said.

Babita, a resident of Ramnagar, has meanwhile remained untraced for the fifth day despite a search operation by police, forest department, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Special Operations Group (SOG), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), disaster management teams, drones and dog squads. Around 50 Army and ITBP personnel were also added to the operation on the district administration's request, taking the joint search strength to nearly 150.

District tourism development officer K K Joshi said Babita's name did not exist on Explore Uttarkashi, the tourism department's mandatory single-window portal for trek registration and permits. "There is no trekking registration or permit in Babita Pandey's name on the portal. During verification, we found that the agency had fabricated a new permit by altering names on an old one. When the QR code was scanned, it showed the names of the original trekkers," Joshi said.

UTTARAKHAND TREKS

Officials said the names of Babita and her co-trekkers, Harmanpal Singh and Harmanpreet Singh, were pasted over a previously issued permit and shown at checkpoints as valid authorisation. The fraud surfaced after the QR code on the permit mapped to earlier trekkers, not the group that had gone to Dayara Bugyal.

For the Dayara Bugyal trek, every tourist must pay Rs 100 as registration fee and Rs 100 as environmental fee, while permission is limited to around 150 trekkers per day to control pressure on the high-altitude meadow. Officials said forged permits cause loss of govt revenue, allow agencies to send extra groups after the daily carrying capacity had been reached, and weaken emergency tracking because rescue teams depend on digital check-ins to verify trekker movement.

A tourism department official said the alleged fraud complicated the initial search. "If a trekker is not registered digitally, the administration does not immediately know that the person is on the mountain. In such cases, rescue teams lose precious time in verifying who entered the trail, through which agency, and under what permit," the official said.

7 dead as 2 MSRTC-run buses collide in Surat

Surat: A chain-reaction crash on NH-53 near Bardoli in Surat left seven people dead and 35 injured on Tuesday afternoon when an MSRTC bus, after hitting a tanker, veered across the road and smashed into an oncoming bus.

Police said around 60 passengers were travelling in the two MSRTC buses when the accident occurred. According to preliminary findings, a Surat-Dhule bus first struck a tractor hauling a water tank. The impact sent it across to the opposite carriageway, where it collided with a Surat-bound bus from Chalisgaon. The second bus was flung off the road, overturned, and caught fire. Fire brigade and police teams rushed to the spot, while locals joined in to evacuate passengers and help fight the blaze. However, the flames that had engulfed parts of the vehicle hampered rescue efforts.

Officials said 35 injured people were rushed to a hospital at Bardoli. Four remain critical and under observation, while those with minor injuries were discharged after treatment.

"Identification of the deceased passengers is underway. We are getting help from MSRTC officials and other passengers," said Surat SP Rajesh Gadhiya. Traffic on the highway was disrupted for several hours. TNN

ED searches Vedanta premises in Delhi, Mumbai and Udaipur

New Delhi: Several premises of industrialist Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Ltd in Delhi, Mumbai and Udaipur were on Monday searched by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a suspected FEMA violation case involving transactions related to brand royalty between the UK-based Vedanta Resources and its Indian subsidiary Vedanta Ltd.

The enforcement agency officials carried out a survey, searching for evidence on suspected remittances made in violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

A spokesperson for Vedanta said: "We are extending full cooperation to the authorities and are providing all information sought. The company remains committed to compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. As the matter is currently under regulatory process, we are unable to comment further at this stage." TNN

Germany waives transit visa for Indians

New Delhi: Indians will no longer need a transit visa when travelling to another country with a layover at a German airport, the country's embassy said here on Tuesday. The decision will come into effect on June 3.

"The lifting of the airport transit visa for Indian citizens was announced in the Federal Law Gazette on June 2, and takes effect on June 3," the German embassy said in a statement.

"It underlines the federal govt's commitment to deepening German-Indian relations, facilitating the movement of people, and further strengthening economic ties," it said. This comes as a result of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to India in Jan, the embassy said.

In April, the ministry of external affairs said the visa-free transit for Indians transiting through France had been operationalised by the French govt. PTI

No room for third party mediation on Nepal border issue, says India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After Nepal PM Balendra Shah sought UK's intervention in the India-Nepal border dispute, the Indian govt Tuesday strongly rejected any third-party mediation on what it described as a bilateral issue. Speaking in Parliament on Sunday, Shah had said that London should take interest in resolving the dispute as it originated during the times of British rule.

"We have established bilateral mechanisms to deal with all aspects of boundary matters. It should be clear to all concerned that there is no role for any third parties in a bilateral matter between India and Nepal," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to media queries on Shah's remarks.

The official said that India had taken note of the remarks by Shah, in which he had also said that both India and Nepal had encroached on each other's land, and also the subsequent clarification by the Nepal foreign ministry. He said that while close to 98% of the India-Nepal boundary has been demarcated, there are some unresolved segments.

Nepal governing party chairman to visit Ram temple

Nepal's governing Rastriya Swatantra Party chairman Rabi Lamichhane, who is leading a delegation to India, will travel to Ayodhya to offer prayers at the Ram temple. On Tuesday, he met home minister Amit Shah, who conveyed India's best wishes for the new Nepal govt's success, BJP president Nitin Nabin and external affairs minister S Jaishankar. TNN

Conflict doubles shipping route diversions

New Delhi: Shipping services from India to alternate West Asian ports have more than doubled since conflict broke out in the region, severely impacting the movement of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz. The number of shipping services operating east of Hormuz and through the Red Sea rose from 127 in Feb to 257 in April and 245 in May, as per govt data.

The shipping ministry said due to the conflict, shipping services west of Hormuz have become negligible, but there has been a significant increase in services east of Hormuz and in the Red Sea.

Amid focus on finding alternate routes for shipping, a fertiliser department official confirmed that the process to evacuate ships loaded with fertiliser stuck west of Hormuz by road to Yanbu Port in Saudi Arabia and then by ships to Indian ports has started. TNN

Mamata accuses BJP of trying to destroy TMC, vows to fight back

▶Continued from page 1

TMC has already expelled MLAs Ritabrata and Sandipan Saha on charges of anti-party activities.

Mamata, who took her protest to central Kolkata's Esplanade, accused BJP of trying every trick in the book to destroy Trinamool. "My party legislators are not being allowed to leave home...cops are now telling them to abandon TMC. They are being told to form a new Trinamool. Who will form it? Those who have been with the party since the beginning or those who have symbolically won? Bengal is witnessing bulldozer politics, and everyone is being threatened.'

The Trinamool chief said she would, as always, fight back. "If I survive, I will remove BJP from office at the Centre."

CM Suvendu Adhikari said Mamata, whom he defeated in Bhowanipore, was clutching at straws. "TMC is in a pathetic condition," he told reporters.

FIRs, resignations paralyse TMC-run civic machinery

Arrest of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) councillor Sachin Singh on Tuesday added to a mounting civic and political crisis across West Bengal, where arrests, FIRs, resignations and administrative upheaval have rattled Trinamool-run municipal bodies, paralysed governance and raised concerns over delivery of basic services. TNN

No criminality, says Delhi court, closes Hindalco coal block allocation case

New Delhi: A Delhi court has closed a coal block allocation case registered by CBI more than a decade ago against Hindalco Industries and discharged the company and its former president and CEO S K Tamotia and former general manager (Corporate Affairs) PRS Mani, reports **Koushiki Saha**.

Special judge (PC Act) Dheeraj Mor held that prima facie, no case of criminal breach of trust, cheating or criminal conspiracy was made out, and CBI failed to establish any illegality by the accused. The accused are entitled to be discharged as there is "neither any evidence on record nor any justifiable reason to infer that they entered into criminal conspiracy to commit any illegal act", the court said in its May 30 order.

The case related to the allocation of Talabira-I coal block in Odisha to Hindalco in 1994, with the FIR filed in Jan 2015. CBI alleged the company violated allocation conditions by using coal from the block in its existing 67.5 MW captive power plant at Hirakud.

Court summons Naveen Jindal, former coal secy

A Delhi court Monday took cognisance of charges filed against industrialist Naveen Jindal, former coal secretary P C Parekh and others under IPC provisions relating to criminal conspiracy and cheating, and the Prevention of Corruption Act, in what it described as "one of the most voluminous chargesheets of coal block cases". TNN

TIMES INTERNET

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No. :- MD/JCTSL/2026-27/D - 552 Date :- 29/05/2026

Corrigendum - 06

This is with reference to JCTSL Bid no 08/2025-26 published on **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in UBN No. JCT2526SLOB00010** and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in Tender ID 2026_JCTS_533159_1,** Some amendments are made. Detail of amendments can be seen and may be downloaded from above mentioned websites and JCTSL Website **(http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/jctsl)**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/3963 **Office on Special Duty**

BHARATPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sr. No :- Tech/BDA/2026-27/6312 - 23 Date :- 27/05/2026

CORRIGENDUM ONLINE NIT No. 03 (2026-27)

With reference to Online NIT No: 03(2026-27), Dispatch No.: Tech/BDA/2026-27/4336-46 Date: 13.04.2026 it is hereby informed that the schedule of tender has been revised as under:

Particulars	Existing Date & Time	Revised Date & Time
Bid Submission End Date	29.05.2026 up to 06:00 PM	03.06.2026 up to 06:00 PM
Bid Opening Date	01.06.2026 at 11:00 AM	04.06.2026 at 11:00 AM

All other terms & conditions of the original NIT shall remain unchanged.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/3968 **Executive Engineer BDA, Bharatpur**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.

O/o SE(TD-III), 604, Investment Building, Lalkothi, Tonk Road, Jaipur

E-TENDER NOTICE : TN-04 (RVU2627GLOB00431)

E-tenders are invited for Procurement of Non Ferric Alum for Various Power Plants of RVUN. Tender details are available on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/3956 RVUN/PR-4403 **Superintending Engineer (TD-III)**

NICDC LOGISTICS DATA SERVICES LIMITED (NLDSL)

CIN : U74999DL2015PLC418260

TENDER NOTICE FOR NATIONAL COMPETATIVE BIDDING

NLDSL invites "Request for Qualification cum Request for Proposal" from interested & qualified bidders for **"Supply of RFID Tags for LDB Project in India"** under tender no. GEM/2026/B/7587192, for the details bidders may visit websites: **www.gem.gov.in** & **www.nldsl.in**.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their responses to the RFQ cum RFP online at Government e-Market Place (GeM) on or before **16th June 2026** at **05:00PM**

NICDC LOGISTICS DATA SERVICES LIMITED(NLDSL)
Hindustan Times House, 17th Floor, Plot No. 18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001 **Email:** tenders@nldsl.in

Annexure: 7

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

For issue of Pond Ash on free of cost basis from NTPC Khargone to Eligible Projects like Road Project / Dams / Mine Backfilling and OB Mixing / Shoreline Protection etc. (as per extant MoEF&CC Notification and policy) June'26 to May'27

EOI No. NTPC/Khargone/AU/Pond Ash/2026/P-3 **Date: 03.06.2026**

NTPC Khargone (2x660MW) invites Expression of Interest (EoI) in the prescribed format for receiving Pond Ash through Environment Friendly manner from station Ash Dykefor the agencies engaged in construction activities such as road laying, road and flyover embankments, shoreline protection structures in coastal districts and dams, Mine Owners for Mine backfilling and OB Mixing, within 300 kms radius from NTPC Khargone. Station shall supply the ash 'on free of cost' and 'as is where is' basis and shall bear the Transportation cost.

Quantity: Expected Pond Ash - **8.17 LMT**, **Duration:** One year, **Location:** Ash Dyke of NTPC Limited Khargone.

How to apply: Interested Ash users are requested to submit their EOI in the 'Format' available at website duly filled in the standard format (Annexure-9) to the address mentioned belowon or Before 17:00 hrs. of **12/06/2026.**

Application for EOI may be sent to Ash Management Department, NTPC Khargone, Village: Selda, Dist.-Khargone, MP-451113, **Email:** aukhargone@ntpc.co.in, **Contact Nos: 9650993988/8351803415**

The standard format and general information for **EOI** are available at website www.ntpctender.ntpc.co.in.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)

III Floor, BMTC Complex, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru- 560 027 Karnataka, India

E-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in; Web: www.bmrc.co.in;

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Enquiry No. : BMRCL/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT144

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., (BMRCL) a Joint Venture of Government of Karnataka (GoK) and Government of India (GoI), invites Tenders (Single Stage-Two Envelope System) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the work of **"Shifting of BESCOM utilities at ORR from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Sarakki Signal of BMRCL Phase-3 Project."** from the eligible Tenderers. The details of the tender and the bidding documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 03.06.2026.** Aspiring bidders need to register in the KPP portal. Further, Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk +91-80-46010000, +91-80-68948777, +919240214000, +919240214001 or send e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for any issue

Sd/- The Chief Engineer (U/S), Utility Shifting Section, BMRCL Building, 2nd Floor, Deepanjali Nagar Metro Station, Bengaluru-560 026.

Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited

Proposals are invited from interested agencies for the following RFPs

1. **Selection of an AMC Service Provider for UPS Systems in APSFL Network-Set 2.**
2. **Selection of an agency for laying of 24F ADSS Optical Fiber Cable in the APSFL Phase-1 network.**

Details of the RfPs and corrigenda may be downloaded from e-procurement platform **tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**

DIPR No:5131PP/CL/AD/VT1/1/2021-22 Dt:02/06/2026

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website : www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice

1. e-Procurement No.: IRCON/ELECT/5040/RE NFR PKG 2/OT-AMC/1B/I Dated : 29.05.2026 e-Open Tender in double packet system for and on behalf of Ircon International Limited is invited from bidders for the work of **"Outsourcing of TRD Maintenance & Breakdown attention work under Six (06) Nos. OHE Depots of newly commissioned OHE & PSI Assets of Lumding Division of Northeast Frontier Railway".**

Estimate Cost of Work incl. of all taxes, duties, levies & GST @18%	Rs. 13,51,31,846/-
End Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	18.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.

2. e-Procurement No.: IRCON/ELECT/5040/RE NFR PKG 2/OT-AMC/1B/II Dated : 29.05.2026 e-Open Tender in double packet system for and on behalf of Ircon International Limited is invited from bidders for the work of **"Outsourcing of TRD Maintenance & Breakdown attention work under Five (05) Nos. OHE Depots of newly commissioned OHE & PSI Assets of Lumding Division of Northeast Frontier Railway".**

Estimate Cost of Work incl. of all taxes, duties, levies & GST @18%	Rs. 11,97,73,752/-
End Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	18.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Chief General Manager/Electrical/PH, H.No.-27, Ward No. 25, Tarapur, Chandmani Road Silchar- Assam Pin 788003

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)
Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. USBRL Project office, Reasi, Jyotipuram Road, Tirntha, Post Gran Morh, Reasi (Distt. Reasi) J&K 182311, Jammu & Kashmir

OPEN E-TENDER

(Two-Packet System)

Tender Notice No. KR-PD-JK-EL-DG-06-2026 dated 03/06/2026. Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. Invites tender for "EXECUTION OF 'C CHECK' MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR DIESEL GENERATOR (DG) SETS INSTALLED IN THE DHARAM-BANIHAL & SANGALDAN –SAWALKOTE SECTION UNDER THE USBRL PROJECT, JAMMU & KASHMIR." **Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 1.63 Cr. **Completion period of contract:** 02 months. **Submission of Tender:** 26/06/2026 upto 15:00 hrs. **Opening of Tender:** 26/06/2026 @ 15:30 hrs. **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. **Earnest Money/ Bid Security:** ₹ 3,25,838/- or as per IREPS to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS Portal only. For further details and updates please visit https://www.ireps.gov.in. Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any would be hosted on the above website only.

IISc team turns toxic aluminium waste into water-cleaning material

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A waste product that has long posed an environmental challenge for the aluminium industry could become a useful resource, thanks to a new process developed by Indian researchers.

Every year, aluminium production generates more than 180 million tonnes of "red mud", a highly alkaline waste left behind during ore processing. The material is difficult to store safely and can contaminate soil and groundwater. Nearly 4 billion tonnes of red mud have accumulated worldwide, making it one of the mining industry's largest waste streams.

RED MUD PROCESS

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have now developed a method to extract iron from red mud and convert it into a catalyst that can help clean polluted water.

The work was carried out by PhD student Kanhai Kumar and Prof Karuna Kar Nanda of the Materials Research Centre. Their findings have been published in the journal Green Chemistry. The process uses an acid-leaching technique that dissolves iron from red mud at a relatively low temperature of about 80°C. In the process, the highly alkaline waste is also neutralised, reducing its environmental hazard.

According to the researchers, the method requires far less energy than conventional iron production.

Karnataka Public Works Department

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, PWD, Bengaluru-560001

No.: PWD/10/PRAMC/2026-27/277 **Date: 02.06.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Manual Tenders for the **03 Services in PRAMC Office**. Further details can be obtained from O/o. the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, Bengaluru from **03.06.2026, 10:30 AM** onwards.

DIPR/CP/LC/947/2026-27 **Sd/-, Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru**

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clients have agreed to develop and sell the Property described in Schedule herein, belonging to (1) **Smt. SUDHARANI MANANDI,** Wife of Sri. Sathish Manandi N., No.C-1401, 'Peninsula Heights', J. P. Nagar, Bangalore – 560 074 and (2) **Smt. SIMRITHA RANJAN,** Wife of Sri. Nikhil Ranjan, Daughter of Sri. Sathish Manandi N., No.D-1201, 'Prestige St. Johns Woods' Apartments, Tavarekere Main Road, Chikka Adugodi, Bangalore – 560 079, who have represented that they purchased the Schedule Property from their vendors Sri.Shramik Nandakishore Mastrulal and others in terms of a Sale Deed dated 27/11/2025 registered as Document No.JAY-1-04442-2025-26 in Book-I and stored in Centralized Data Cell in Electronic Form, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore. Persons objecting for the proposed development and sale or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Ten (10) days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the title of landowners as mentioned in the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no other person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections, if any, which are not received within Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and will proceed to develop and sell the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

Item No.1:

All that Property bearing Sy.No.16/1, now bearing Municipal No.155/150/149/16/1 and new EPID No.69277 73938 measuring 31,230 Sq. Ft., Bannerghatta Road, Arakere, Municipal Ward No.193 of Arakere, Bangalore and is bounded on the :

East : Bannerghatta Road;
West : Property bearing Sy.No.17/1;
North : Roadway; and
South : Private Property.

Item No.2:

All that Property bearing Sy.No.16/1, Municipal No.730/1382/1341/16/1 and new EPID No.3901967645 measuring 14,900 Sq. Ft., situated in Bannerghatta Road, Arakere, Municipal Ward No.193 of Arakere, Bangalore and is bounded on the :

East : Driveway leading to Bannerghatta Road and Property bearing Sy.No.16/1;
West : Property bearing Sy.No.17/1;
North : Remaining portion of unconverted land bearing Sy.No.16/1;
South : Private Property.

Sri. KUSUMA R. MUNIRAJU, Sri. KUSUMA KAUSHIK, *Advocates,* 101, "EDEN PARK", No: 20, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru -560 001. Tel: 080-22217971.

Bangalore Date: 02/06/2026

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Union Bank of India invites offers for Empanelment of intermediaries for raising debt capital / long term bonds and green bonds. Detailed information and tender documents are available on Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.bank.in** and CPP portal **www.eprocure.gov.in.** **Last Date for receipt of offers in prescribed form is 25.06.2026 up-to 03.00 PM.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Deputy General Manager

KHPT

IT Park, 5th Floor, 1-4, Rajajinagar Industrial Area, Behind KSSIDC Admin Office, Bangalore 560044

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Proposals are invited for **"Supply of STAINLESS STEEL WATER BOTTLE AND FOLDING UMBRELLA".**

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Date : 03-06-2026
Procurement Committee - KHPT

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REQUIRED Service Engineer for Bangalore 3 to 5 yrs experienced in Analytical Balance & Scientific Instruments. E: support@wensar.com

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aruna Golikoppa Vasu Shetty S/o Vasu Shetty Golikoppa Seena Shetty have changed my minor Daughter's name from Parthavi Shetty to Parthavi Arun Shetty for all future purposes as per Affidavit dated 01/06/2026 sworn before Notary Leela. Bengaluru.

I, KISHOR KUMAR MUNIRAMU, R/O NO 241, 10TH B CROSS, 25TH MAIN, J P NAGAR 1ST PHASE BENGALURU - 560078, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM KISHORE KUMAR MUNIRAMU TO KISHOR KUMAR MUNIRAMU, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I ANTHONY JOSEPH VIJAY KUMAR shall henceforth be known as RAMESH BABU POTHUREDDY affidavit sworn before notary (K.C.PEMMAIAH) dated (30.05.2026).

I POORNIMA SREEJA VEDULA D/O RAMESH BABU POTHUREDDY shall henceforth be known as POORNIMA SREEJA POTHUREDDY affidavit sworn before notary (R.RAMESH) dated (01.06.2026).

LOST & FOUND

MY client, Sri.A. Venkatarathnam, S/o. Adi Thimmaiah, R/at No.271, 6th Cross, Anandgiri Extension, S.S.A. Main Road, Hebbal, R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560024, have Lost the Original Sale Deed Dated 20.11.2010, Document No. HBB-1-02039/2010-11, stored in HBBD29, Book-I, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Hebbal, for North-east portion of Property bearing Site No.33, portion of Assessment Nos.3 and 4, situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Anandgiri Layout, Bangalore,. Finders contact Devika Kumari.A., Advocate., No.1115, GF, 26th 'B' Main, 41st Cross, 9th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-69.Call 9480620781

I, K.A.Yeshodamma have Lost My Original Sale deed documents Situated in Kothapalli Village of Panchayat Limit of Sevaganapalli, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist., Doc No - 5091/2018, Sy No -19/4, Plot No - 21, Layout - Mount Zoe, Area Extend -1200 Sqft, Old SRO Hosur, (Present SRO Bagalur) While Some Personal Work in B'lore Near behind Gopalan Mall in Byappanahalli, Case Registered No - 2217523/2026, Sakala No - P0012S260001397, Aff No - IN-KA68054663864814Y, Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address, K.A. Yeshodamma, Do/6/2, 6th Cross, Devasandra Main Road, Kuvempu Layout, B'lore North, Krishnarajapurum. Phone - 9632882967.

GENERAL

I, RAJU K B, S/o. BHIMAIAH K H, Residing at No.49, 15th Main Road, 2nd Cross, Gokula 1st stage, HMT Layout, Bengaluru- 560054 declare that in my documents my father name wrongly entered as BHIMAIAH @ K H BHIMAIAH @ BHEEMAIAH @ K H BHEEMAIAH correct name is BHIMAIAH K H vide Affidavit dated 02.06.2026 sworn before notary Chandrakala, B'luru.

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Among the achievers was **Sri. Santhosh MS** son of MS Chandrakala and (Late) MS Sathayanarayana of Bengaluru, who successfully became part of the Guinness World Record. Santhosh MS is currently Working as Tax Inspector, GBA West City Corporation (RO) Office Rajajinagar

Hallel Music School Founder Mr. Augustine Dandingi presented certificates to the achievers and congratulated them for their dedication and achievement.

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5 new SC judges take oath; strength rises to record 37

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: CJI Surya Kant on Tuesday administered oath to five new Supreme Court judges — Justices Sheel Nagu, Sree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, Arun Palli and V S Mohana — taking the working strength of SC judges to a record 37 with one vacancy.

The entire process — involving the recommendation of names by the five-member CJI-led collegium, vetting of names by govt and issuance of warrants of appointment by the President — was completed within a week. The collegium recommended the names on May 27, warrants of appointment were issued on June 1 after govt cleared them, and the new judges took oath on Tuesday.

Justice Nagu became a judge of Madhya Pradesh HC in May 2011 and was appointed chief justice of Punjab and Haryana HC on July 9, 2024. As an SC judge, he would have a three-and-a-half-year tenure. Justice Nagu was part of the in-house committee panel inquiring into the discovery of partially burnt notes from the residence of then Delhi HC judge Yashwant Varma in March last year.

Bombay HC CJ Chandrashekhar, who had become a judge of his parent HC in Jharkhand in Jan 2013, will have a tenure of less than four years in SC. He was part of the Lok Sabha speaker-appointed committee inquiring into the alleged misconduct of Justice Varma.

MP HC CJ Sachdeva, who had become a judge of Delhi HC in April 2013, will have a tenure of three and a half years. J&K and Ladakh HC CJ Palli, appointed a judge in his parent Punjab and Haryana HC in Dec 2013, will have a tenure of three years and four months as SC judge. Justice Mohana is a first-generation lawyer and became an advocate on record in 1996. Designated as a senior advocate in April 2015, she will have a tenure of five years in SC.

SC started its journey on Jan 26, 1950, with eight judges, including CJI Harilal Jekisondas Kania. The latest increase from 34 to 38 happened last month — a meagre rise compared to CJI Kant's assessment that SC needed 10 more judges.

Justice Mohana 12th woman to be sworn in as SC judge

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

CJI administers the oath of office to Justice V Mohana on Tuesday

New Delhi: When 60-year-old Venkata Subramani Mohana took oath on Tuesday as a judge of the Supreme Court, she became part of a small group of 12 women judges among a total of 289 who have been judges of the SC in its over 76-year journey. Justice Mohana is the second advocate to be elevated as a judge of the SC after Justice Indu Malhotra.

SC had all-male judges till Oct 6, 1989, when Justice Fathima Beevi became the first woman judge of the apex court during the tenure of CJI E S Venkataramiah, whose daughter Justice B V Nagarathna is set to become the first woman CJI next year.

The second woman judge in the SC was Justice Sujata Manohar, who took oath as an SC judge on Nov 8, 1994, during the tenure of CJI A M Ahmadi and retired on Aug 27, 1999.

Since 2000, there have been 10 more woman judges. First among them was Justice Ruma Pal, who was elevated as an SC judge on Jan 28, 2000, and missed being the first woman CJI by a whisker, retiring as the most senior judge in June 2006. It took the collegium more than a decade to recommend the appointment of another woman SC judge in Justice Gyan Sudha Misra, who took oath on April 30, 2010, during the tenure of CJI K G Balakrishnan.

CJI N V Ramana's tenure created a record. Three women judges – Justices Hima Kohli, Bela M Trivedi and B V Nagarathna – took oath on the same day, Aug 31, 2021, a record that is not going to be broken in the near future.

Phone battery blast kills toddler

A one-year-old boy died after the battery of a discarded cellphone allegedly exploded while he was playing with it in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur Sunday. He was playing outside his house with his siblings. The child succumbed during treatment. Officials said the battery may have exploded after its terminals were accidentally short-circuited while the kids were handling it. TNN

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Court allows paper leak accused books in jail for NEET retest prep

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday allowed a student lodged in judicial custody in the NEET-UG paper leak case to keep study material with him in Tihar Jail to prepare for the re-exam on June 21. While allowing Yash Yadav's application, the court sought clarification on whether NTA would permit him to appear for the retest in view of his status as an accused in the paper leak case. When Yadav's counsel submitted that "no fresh registration is required. Candidates can retake the exam using their existing credentials, and fresh admit cards based on the revised dates are expected to be issued on June 14," the court said the question of Yadav's eligibility to appear in the re-examination could be considered at a later stage. TNN

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Ref. No. 482 /HNBUMU/2026-27 Date: 02.06.2026
Advertisement for the Post of Registrar HNBUMU
Applications are invited from interested, eligible, Indian Citizens for the one post of Registrar through direct recruitment/deputation as per government order number 382933/XXVIII(V)/2026(E-26031).The post carries the pay scale 66700- 206700 with (level-11)
Applicants may visit our Website: www.hnbumu.ac.in for detailed advertisement including eligibility, general instructions, application form and all other updates about this advertisement. The last date for submission of application by speed post and the same by email also is 01 July 2026. The candidate must download the application form from university website and attach copies of all relevant testimonials, documents duly self-attested and submit the same with filled complete form to the "Vice Chancellor, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Uttarakhand Medical Education University Bayakhala, New central hope town selaqui, Dehradun-248011,Uttarakhand (India)", so as to reach her, on or before 01 July 2026 by speed Post and the same as PDF copy in email (vchnbumu2@gmail.com) only. Applications received both by speed post and the same PDF copy in email on or before 01/07/2026 will be considered for recruitment process. VICE CHANCELLOR HNBUMU, DEHRADUN

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES JODHPUR
(An Autonomous body of Govt. of India)
Basni, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) 342 005 Ph No: 0291-2740741,
E-mail: academicsection@aiimsjodhpur.edu.in
ADVERTISEMENT
Online Applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens for recruitment to the post of Senior Resident (Non DM/MCh.) and Post-Doctoral Fellowship as per Govt, of India Residency Scheme for the session July, 2026 for various departments at AIIMS, Jodhpur.

Post Name	Opening Date for Online Application	Closing Date for Online Application
Senior Resident	01.06.2026	30.06.2026 (up to 5:00 PM)
Post-Doctoral Fellowship	02.06.2026	30.06.2026 (up to 5:00 PM)

Detailed advertisement and application form is available on Institute website: http://www.aiimsjodhpur.edu.in
Dean (Academics)
AIIMS, Jodhpur

PT. RAM SUMER SHUKLA SMRITI GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE,
Nainital Road, Rudrapur (U.S. Nagar)
Email: principalgmcrudrapur@gmail.com Phone: 05944-299245
पत्रांक : जी0एम0सी0 / 08 / विज्ञापन / 2110 दिनांक : 02 जून, 2026
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
A "Walk-in Interview" for various faculty positions of Pt. Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Government Medical College, Rudrapur (Udham Singh Nagar) is scheduled on dated 11 June 2026 (Thursday) from 10.30 A.M onwards in the "Office of the Principal" Government Medical College, Rudrapur (US Nagar). The appointments will be made on contractual basis for three years (Extendable on yearly basis) or till regular appointments are made, whichever is earlier. The details of vacancy position in various departments are being uploaded in the website www.gmcrudrapur.com and www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in. Principal,
(Government Medical College, Rudrapur)

Government of Karnataka
DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LAND TRANSPORT
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER URBAN LAND TRANSPORT
BMTC, TTMC 'B' Block, (Above Bus Stand), 4th Floor, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Ph : 080-22226627 / 6628, Fax : 080-22226630,
E-Mail : dultbangalore@gmail.com, dult@karnataka.gov.in
Website: https://dult.karnataka.gov.in
No:DULT-TECH/38/2025 Dated :02.06.2026
JOB NOTIFICATION
The Directorate of Urban Land Transport for its Centre for Urban Mobility Planning, Design and Action Research in Kalaburagi intends to appoint qualified professional for various positions on a contract basis. Interested candidates can visit https://dult.karnataka.gov.in/59/careers/en for more details and apply.
sd/- Joint Director(Admin)
Directorate of Urban Land Transport
Urban Development Department
DIPR/CP/944/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

SBI
Chief Officer (Security) Department, 9th Floor, Corporate Centre, State Bank Bhavan, Madam Cama road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
RFP NO: GEM/2026/B/7601985 DATED: 30.05.2026
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for selection of Master System Integrator (MSI) for establishment of Centralized Monitoring Station, Command Centre & Incident Management System for branches of State Bank of India. Bidders, who are interested to submit bids, visit Procurement News at https://sbi.bank.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news and GeM portal https://gem.gov.in/
Commencement of download of RFP: From 30.05.2026 at 13:29 hrs
Last date and time for submission of bids: 20.06.2026 up to 15:00 hrs
Place: Mumbai
Date: 30.05.2026 Chief Officer (Security)

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
एमएसएमई प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre New Delhi Organizes
PPDC
Online One Month Internship on Research
WHO SHOULD ATTEND : Students (UG and PG), Research Scholars, Junior Research Fellow, Senior Research Fellow, Research Associate, Faculty, Scientist, Industrialist.
Benefits of the participants: : • Find a problem statement for their research • Learn to write thesis • Write technical and literature review article • Learn research tools • Research Software • Effective publication
Date/ दिनांक: 8th June to 8th July, 2026 Fees/ शुल्क: Rs.1500/- only
Time/ समय: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM For Inquiry Call Between 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
For More Details, Course Content and Online Registration
Contact Number - 7983607199, 9810371728, 9677692445
E-mail- kathir.r@dcmsme.gov.in, msmeppdcdelhi@gmail.com
Certificate will be awarded

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that our client proposes to transact with Ms Edidula Changal Reddygari Suguna wife of Mr E C Gangi Reddy, being the owner of immovable properties being land parcels situated in various survey numbers of Bagalur village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk and Bengaluru District, Karnataka which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter to as the "Schedule Property".
Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, easement, encumbrance, trust, covenant, possession, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, lis-pendens, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance of any nature howsoever ("Claim"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.
Schedule Property

Sl No	Survey No	Extent (excluding Kharabh)		Kharabh (Guntas)	Total extent (Acre-Gunta)	Boundaries			
		Acres	Guntas			East	West	North	South
1.	285/3	00	32	00	0-32	Survey No 285/4	Boyalahalli Village Boundary	Road	Survey No 385/1A
2.	285/4	00	35	00	0-35	Survey No 406	Survey No 285/3	Road	Survey No 385/1B
3.	385/1A	01	32	00	1-32	Survey No 385/1B	Boyalahalli Village Boundary	Survey No 285/3	Survey No 384
4.	385/1B	01	33	00	1-33	Survey No 385/1C	Survey No 385/1A	Survey No 285/4	Survey No 384
5.	385/1C	01	23	00	1-23	Survey Nos 385/2 and 406	Survey No 385/1B	Survey No 385/2	Survey No 384
6.	385/2	00	11	00	0-11	Survey No 406	Survey No 385/1C	Survey No 406	Survey No 385/1C
7.	406	02	38	07	3-05	Survey Nos 273 and 274	Survey No 285/4	Road	Survey No 385/2

Advocate Sudheer Madamaiah
Khaitan & Co LLP,
Indiqube Symphony, Tower II, 4th floor, Craig Layout, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Date: 03.06.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the public that we have been engaged by our client to investigate the right and title of all piece and parcel of land converted land bearing Survey No. 41/2 having E-katha No. RDPR PID: 150300301700620282 measuring 2 Acres 8 Guntas or 880191 square meters situated at Hosahudya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru District, land described in the Schedule below and referred to as the "Schedule Property", owned by Geethaanajli Effective Reality Solutions Private Limited ("Owner")
If any person has any right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to the Schedule Property or any part thereof or, has executed any transactions or documents (whether registered of unregistered) with the Owner or predecessors in title of the Schedule Property, having the effect of creating an encumbrance thereon, are called upon to submit their statements, objections or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received, we would conclusively presume that no person has any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge, or encumbrance, whatsoever existing on the Schedule Property or any part thereof and we will issue our opinion confirming that the owners have right and title in respect of the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE
Description of the Schedule Property
All that piece and parcel of the converted land bearing Survey No. 41/2 having E-katha No. RDPR PID: 150300301700620282 measuring 2 Acres 8 Guntas or 880191 square meters situated at Hosahudya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded as follows:
East by : Road;
West by : Land bearing Survey No. 40/2;
North by : Land bearing Survey No. 38; and
South by : Land bearing Survey No. 41/1.
Gerald Manoharan,
Partner, JSA, Advocates,
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru-560 001. Ph: 080-43503600/080-43503610,
E-mail – gerald@jsalaw.com
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 03-06-2026

Ministry of Defence
Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
Recruitment & Assessment Centre (RAC)
Lucknow Road, Timarpur ,Delhi-110054.
Advertisement No. 157 Closing date : 26th June 2026 (1600 Hrs.)
In pursuit of self-reliance in critical technologies relevant to national security, DRDO formulates and executes programmes of scientific research, design, development, testing and evaluation of various systems, subsystems, devices and products required for defence of the nation. DRDO employs highly qualified and competent Scientists and Technologists in Group 'A' Technical Service known as Defence Research & Development Service (DRDS).
Career Progression - DRDO provides excellent opportunities for career growth under its Flexible Complimenting Scheme (FCS) wherein promotion to higher levels is delinked from availability of vacancy. Meritorious candidates can rise in hierarchy through the periodic merit based Assessments under Flexible Complimenting Scheme (FCS).
RAC invites online recruitment applications through RAC website (https://rac.gov.in) for the following posts of Scientist E, Scientist D and Scientist C in the DRDS cadre and other Encadered posts in DRDS cadre on regular basis under Lateral Recruitment Scheme:

Post	No. of Vacancies	Min. Experience Required (Years)	Pay Structure (as per 7th CPC)	Maximum Age (As on closing date)
Scientist E	02	11	Basic Pay: Rs. 1,23,100/- , Level 13	45 Years
Scientist D	11	07	Basic Pay: Rs. 78,800/- , Level 12	45 Years
Scientist C	20	03	Basic Pay: Rs. 67,700/- , Level 11	35 Years
Total	33			

The detailed advertisement and the link for online registration will be available at RAC website (https://rac.gov.in) w.e.f. 06 Jun 2026. The closing date for online registration under Advertisement No. 157 will be : 26 June 2026 (1600 hrs.)
CBC 10301/11/0028/2627

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)

Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru-560 038 Ph:080-25191039

e-Mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Bid No. BMRCL/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT138 Date: 01.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for Sewage Treatment Plant and Effluent Treatment plant at Reach-5 Metro stations and Hebbagodi Depot".** The works details can be obtained from the procurement website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 30.06.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or** contact this office during office working Hours.

Sd/- Executive Director (O&M)

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Divn. South Road-1, PWD (GNCTD),

Sukhdev Vihar, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110025.

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDDERS FOR e-TENDERING FORMING PART OF BID DOCUMENT

The Executive Engineer, Division South Road-1, (M-441), PWD, Sukhdev Vihar, New Delhi-110025 (E-Mail ID: eepwddelhisr1@gmail.com) on behalf of the President of India invites on online Percentage Rate tender from CPWD enlisted contractors of appropriate class & category and firms/contractors of repute satisfying the set eligibility criteria in two bid system for the following work:-

CE NIT No.:-	**14/CE/South/PWD/2026-27**
EE NIT No.:-	**08/EE/PWD/RMD/SR-I/2026-27.**
Name of work:-	Improvement of drainage system at M.B. Road under Division South Road-1 & South East Road-2, PWD, New Delhi. (SH: Construction of Precast RCC Box drain at M.B. Road from Lado Sarai to RUB Pul Prahladpur).
Estimated Cost	Rs. 293,99,18,110/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 3,03,99,181/-
Performance Guarantee	5% of the Estimated Cost put to tender (ECPT) or Contract Amount whichever is higher + APG
Additional Performance Guarantee (APG)	Amount equivalent to the difference between 80% amount and quoted amount. [E.G. (0.8A – quoted Amount) where A = ECPT].
Security Deposit	2.5 % of tendered value of the work + Additional Security Deposit @ 2.50% of the cost of Precast Drain.
Time Allowed	18 (Eighteen) Months
Pre-Bid Conference	Date: 08/06/2026 at 4:00 PM Pre-Bid conference shall be held in the conference room of in the O/o Chief Engineer, South (M), Zone, 7th Floor, MSO Building, New Delhi-110002. Intending bidders may send their queries on e-mail at least 3 days before the scheduled pre-bid meeting.
Date of Submission of tender	22-06-2026 upto 3:00 P.M.

Further details can be seen on the website govt. **procurement.delhi.gov.in**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

E- NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM BID NO. 05 (2026-27)

On line bids for E-NIB Short term No.05 (2026-27) are here from interested bidders for S.No: 01 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N.L Hanumangarh. The details of NIB i.e. estimated cost, tender fee, earnest money date of tender download and submitting etc. given in procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in. & www.rvpn.co.in.**

UBN : VPN2627WSOB00581

Raj.Samwad/C/26/3955 R.R.V.P.N./TR-7592/2026 Superintending Engineer (Civil), Bikaner

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact no. 96461-36447)

(Short Term Tender Notice)

Tender Enquiry No: 06/ASR/GCD/TS/PSPCL/2026-27 **Dated : 29.05.2026**

Addl. S.E., Grid Construction Division, Amritsar has invited e-tender for Outsourcing work of erection, testing and commissioning of Additional 2 no. 20 MVA Power Transformers (at 66 Kv S/s Jakopur and Gillan) along with complete bay equipment on partial turnkey mode under RDSS scheme under Grid Construction Division, Pspcl, Amritsar under Grid Const. Circle, Pspcl, Ludhiana.

For more details please refer to website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from **29.05.2026, 1:30 pm onwards.,**

Note: Corrigendum and addendum if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in only.

C 606, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11867

Karnataka Labour Welfare Board

Office of the, Welfare Commissioner, # 48, Karmika Kalyana Bhavana, Mathikere Main Road, Yeshwanthapura, Bengaluru-560 022. Phone: 080-23570266 (Gen.)

e-mail: welfarecommissioner123@gmail.com
Website: www.klwb.karnataka.gov.in

No: KLWB/CR-1/Fixed Deposit/E-Auction-1/2026-27 Dated: 02-06-2026

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Sub: Inviting E-Auction for interest rate bids on Investment of Surplus Funds in Fixed Deposit/ Non-callable for one year through E-Portal, Government of Karnataka.

Board is inviting competitive rate of interest through e-bidding on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka from the Regional / Zonal / Head Offices of the Nationalized banks for Non-callable Fixed/ Term Deposits of 'Surplus funds' of approx. Rs.200.00 crore (Rupees Two Hundred crore only) for one year **(Auction Notice No. : KLWB/CR-1/Fixed Deposit/E-Auction-1/2026-27, Dated: 02-06-2026.**

E-Auction documents should be submitted electronically through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(www.kppp. karnataka.gov.in)** and last date for applying is on **17.06.2026 before 4:00 p.m.** For further information please contact Phone: **080-23570266, Mob: 8762598777** during office hours.

Sd/- Welfare Commissioner, Karnataka Labour Welfare Board, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO938/AAPL/2026-27

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: DRMENGGRNC-38-2026, Dated: 01.06.2026. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), South Eastern Railway, Ranchi-834003 for & on behalf of President of India, invites Tender for the following work: **Notice No.: DRMENGGRNC-38-2026. Name of work:** Chandil-Muri-Barkakana (SL) Section: Conversion of stone-set bridges (18 nos.) into RCC Box bridges with flat top under the jurisdiction of DEN (East) Ranchi. **Tender Value:** ₹ 10,69,12,424.48. **EMD Value:** ₹ 21,38,300. **Tender closing date & time:** 25.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Tenderers can visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for online tendering. **(PR-263)**

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The following **e-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply.** Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy. CMM/M-II/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340708 or AMM/M, 9163340706 for both tender notice. **Office Address:** Office of The PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. **[A] Notice No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 27/05/2026. Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 75255038B. Brief Description of Item:** Aerodynamic and Flattened Cabs for WAP-5 Locomotive with Modified Design to Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/154 Alt.3 or latest and attached Drg. (i) Aerodynamic Cab Drg. No: 1211-01.030-001, 1211-01.030-002 & 1211-01.030-004 (ii) Flattened Cab Drg. No: 1211-02.030-001, 1211-02.030-002, 1211-02.030-003 & 1211-02.030-004. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity:** 8.00 Set. **Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 98940.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 18.06.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

[B] Notice No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 28/05/2026. Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 75264157. Brief Description of Item: Bracket Assly. for Inverted Under Frame Equipments for WAG-9HC Loco. CLW Cat. No. R/9/0139 (Set Details attached with the tender) **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity:** 358.00 Set. **Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 299510.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 22/06/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

PR2/362 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

"Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways"

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. N-235-62 TELE TENDER-06-2026

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele/HQ. N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following works from the contractors having sufficient experience as per eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document. **(1)** Tender Notice No.: N-235-62 Tele Tender-06-2026, **(2)** Name of work: "Provision of LTE-FDD based Wireless Tactical Emergency Communication System by Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of LTE-FDD based Wireless Communication equipment's along with associated accessories for one Location each ART of LJN Division & IZN Division, North Eastern Railway. **(3)** Tender Value: ₹ 8,92,19,100.72, (Rs. Eight Crore Ninety Two Lakh Ninteen Thousand One Hundred & Seventy Two Paisa only). **(4)** Bid Security: ₹ 17,84,400/-, **(5)** Validity of Offer: 60 Days. **(6)** Date & Time of closing and opening of Tender: Dated 30-06-2026 Time 12:30 Hrs. **(7)** Completion Period: 06 (Six) Months. **(8)** For any changes of tender, Please check on internet website for Corrigendum of the original tender notice. **(9)** Detailed tender notice, documents, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website ***http://www.ireps.gov.in***

Note:- The Tenderer's/bidder's must upload all relevant attachments/Format/Annexure along with their bid.

Dy. Chief Sig. & Telecom Eng./Tele/ CPRO/Signal-47 **HQ, Gorakhpur**

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

GUJARAT MINERAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Commissioner of Geology and Mining
PMC Laboratory, PDEU Road, Next to Solar Park, Raysan
Gandhinagar – 382007, Gujarat Web site: https://gmrds.gujarat.gov.in

The Gujarat Mineral Research and Development Society (GMRDS), an autonomous organization functioning under the Industries and Mines Department, is committed to advancing mineral research, exploration, and sustainable development in the state.

Proposals are invited from eligible bidders for below mentioned details :

1	**Name of Work**	RFP for Selection of Agencies to carryout DGPS/Topographic survey, Geological exploration (Geological mapping, Pitting, Core drilling & Analysis) and Geological report preparation work for Dimensional & other than Dimensional stone in the State of Gujarat
2	**Estimated total work (in hect.)**	3,000 hect. (maximum)
3	**Last date for bid submission**	23/06/2026 16:00 hrs
4	**Detailed tender document/ RFP can be downloaded from**	**https://cgm.gujarat.gov.in or https://gmrds.gujarat.gov.in**
5	**Director (Technical)-GMRDS E-mail address**	director-tech-gmrds@gujarat.gov.in

NOTE:

a. All queries regarding this Tender/RFP will be entertained **only via email** at the address mentioned above.
b. The Tender process will be conducted **online through the GeM portal** (Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/ 7610080). In addition, bidders must submit **one hard copy** of the technical evaluation document as specified in the RFP.
c. The awarded work will be executed in a **phase-wise & segment-wise manner.**
d. Bidders are required to strictly adhere to the **RFP conditions** and the **GeM tender terms & conditions.**

Sd/-
INF/470/2026-27 **CEO, GMRDS**

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನೀಸಸಿಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಾಸವೀಸ ಆವರಣ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570020

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ/ನೀಸ&ಒಚ(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)/ಸ.ಅ/ಟಿಎನ್–04/238/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:01.06.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ KTPP ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಜಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	Kw-1, Kw-2, &Kw-3	06 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	192.12	03.06.2026	18.06.2026	19.06.2026
2	Goods Tender & Service Tenders	03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	77.37	03.06.2026	18.06.2026	19.06.2026
3	Kw-1, Kw-2, &Kw-3	07 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	185.23	03.06.2026	10.06.2026	11.06.2026

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನೀಸಸಿಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/256/ತಿರಡಿಸಾಯು/2026–27

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, नगर निगम, बरेली

पत्रांक: 74/मु0अभि0/नि0वि0/2025–26 दिनांक: 01.06.2026

अल्पकालीन पुनः ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा सूचना शासनादेश सं0- 3890/वी-5-149सा/2019 नगर विकास अनुभाग-05 30प0 शासन लखनऊ दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 2019 के अनुपालन में ठेकेदारों से निर्माण कार्यों हेतु निविदायें दू विड पद्धति (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) के माध्यम से निम्न प्रकार से आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि में यदि कोई अवकाश होगा तो निविदाएं अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट **https://etender.up.nic.in** व नगर निगम की वेबसाइट **www.nagarnigambareilly.com** पर देखी जा सकता है।

उपवन योजना के अन्तर्गत पुनः ई-निविदा आमंत्रित हेतु (क्रमांक सं0.–01)	
ई–निविदा डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ की तिथि/समय	04.06.2026 (03:00 PM)
ई–निविदा अपलोड की प्रारम्भ तिथि/समय	04.06.2026 (04:00 PM)
ई–निविदा अपलोड की अंतिम तिथि/समय	12.06.2026 (03:00 PM)
ई–निविदा खोली जाने की तिथि/समय	12.06.2026 (04:00 PM)
फाईनेशियल ई – निविदा खोली जाने हेतु	After Technical Evaluation

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम बरेली के वेबसाईट **www.nagarnigambareilly.com** पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम बरेली।

25001/288/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com
Letter No. 1698 Date: 26.05.2026

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Through GePNIC

e_Procurement Notice

1 Name of the work : **Road works for the Year 2026-2027 (Total Twenty-Four (24) Nos of Works)**
2 Class of contractor : **"B" Class & "A" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.**
3 Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs. 103.04 Lakhs to Rs.581.94 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4 Details projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender: Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada	NCB-08/ RWCRGDA/ 2026-2027	Dt. 05.06.2026 at 11.00A.M.	Dt.23.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.22.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M	Dt.24.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site **https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Rayagada
OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0013

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWFPCEEELTD 2026-2702 Dated 15.05.2026

E-Tender: On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www. ireps.gov.in** (Works).

Tender No.: RWFPCEEELTD2026-2702 **Dtd:** 15.05.2026. **Name of the Work:** Development of online monitoring and control of electrical assets with NIYANTRAC at RWF. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 45,52,334/-. **EMD:** Rs. 91,100/-. **Date of Closing of Tenders:** 15.06.2026 at 11:00 Hrs.

Tender Notice No. RWF/PCEE/EL/TD/2026-27/03 Dated 27.05.2026

Tender No.: RWFPCEEELTD2026-27-03 **Dtd:** 27.05.2026. **Name of the Work:** Electrical improvement works in West and East Colony at RWF using Solar Energy installations. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 2,17,29,071/-. **EMD:** Rs. 4,34,600/-. **Date of Closing of Tenders:** 18.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.

The above Tender details can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Reg Office:30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Road, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 051.
Email: bswml2021@gmail.com

No.BSWML/Administration/PR/214/2026-27 **Date: 02.06.2026**

NOTIFICATION

For the effective implementation of the **Solid Waste Management Rules - 2026,** Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) invites applications from Skilled qualified and experienced candidates for the following posts, to be appointed on a **Contract Basis for a period of One Year,** subject to terms and conditions.

Sl. No.	Post Name	No. of Posts	Qualification
1	Chief Marshals: East, West, North and South City Corporations, GBA	04	1. Educational qualification: Postgraduate 2. Retired Army Officer not below the rank of Major and not above Colonel will be preferred. 3. Experience in enforcement and handling legal issues. 4. Experience in handling Solid Waste Management in Urban Local Bodies is preferable.

Notice: This notification is subject to the final decision of the company.
Walk-In-Interview: Date:10.06.2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1.00 pm.
Place of Interview: 30/1, 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 051

Sd/- Chief Operations Officer,
DIPR/CP/950/CCL/2026-27 Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited

34001/290/2627

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel. (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA

NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No.- B-I-Sports-19/2026 18628/ Bhubaneswar, the 29th May, 2026

Invitation for Bids
1st Corrigendum

Tender Reference No. CE-Bldg-I-08/2026-27

Name of the Works: (1) **"Construction of Block Level Stadium in Angul Block of Angul District (With Indoor Hall)"**
(2) **"Construction of Block Level Stadium in Banarpal Block of Angul District (With Indoor Hall)"**

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. **CE-Bldg-I-08/2026-27**

1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. **www.tendersorissa.gov.in,** during the period from **dt.09.06.2026** to **17.00 hours** of **dt.24.06.2026** instead of dt.29.05.2026 to dt.16.06.2026 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. Online bids shall be received till **17.00 Hours of dt.24.06.2026** instead of dt.16.06.2026.
3. The technical bids will be opened at **11.30 A.M. of dt.25.06.2026** instead of dt.17.06.2026.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer, Buildings-I Odisha, Bhubaneswar**
OIPR-34001/34117/1/26-27/0023

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)

Pandit Deendayal Upadhayay Paryatan Bhawan, Near O.N.G.C. Helipad, Nimbuwala, Garhi Cantt, Derhadun - 248003 (UK)
Ph. 0135-2559898, Fax 135-2559988

Ref. No. 1380/2-7-1020/2026-27 Dated: 02 June, 2026

UTDB invites tender for Supply of Ski Equipment to the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB), Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Details may be obtained on website: **uktenders.gov.in** and **uttarakhandtourism.gov.in** from **3:00 PM on 03.06.2026.** Prospective Bidders may seek clarification till **03:00 PM on 07.06.2026** through E-mail: **adventurewingutdb@gmail.com** with CC to **procurement.utdb@gmail.com.** Any Addendum/ Corrigendum including date extension will be uploaded only on **uktenders.gov.in.** Bids must be submitted online through **uktenders.gov.in** only. The last date for submission of bids is **30.06.2026 till 15:00 PM.**

Chief Executive Officer

12001/32/2627

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 22.
Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921,
E-mail: ophwc.od@od.gov.in, Website: www.ophwc.com
e-procurement notice No.- 04/OPHWC/2026-27

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The **Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC)**, Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the works as detailed below:

1	Nature of work	Building works
2	No. of Works	03 Nos.
3	Value of Tender	Rs. 1.33 Cr. to Rs. 117.77 Cr.
4	Class of Contractor	'B' Class to 'Super' Class
5	Cost of Bid document (To be paid online)	Rs. 11,800.00
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	Dt. 04/06/2026 to Dt. 25/06/2026 up to 5.00 P.M
7	Last date/time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal	Dt. 25/06/2026 up to 5.00 P.M
8	Date of Opening Bid	Dt. 29/06/2026 at 10.30 A.M
9	Date of Technical Presentation (among qualified bidders only)	Date & Time will be notified after opening of the Technical Bid.
10	* The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can also be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall not be published in Newspaper and can only be seen in the said website. * The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and terminate the tender process without assigning any reason thereof.	

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC)

N.B. - The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable Under works contract.

OIPR-12001/12025/1/26-27/0004

11001/84/2627

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, KEONJHAR

ସରକାରୀ ଯାନ୍ତ୍ରୀକ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ, କେନ୍ଦୁଝର

(An Affiliated College of BPUT, Odisha)
At: Jamunalia, P.O.: Old Town, Dist., Keonjhar, Pin: 758002 (Odisha)
Web: www.gcekjr.ac.in / Mail id- principal@gcekjr.ac.in

No.972 Date: 02/06/2026

TENDER NOTICE

Lab Equipments for Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering (MME), Govt. College of Engineering (GCE) Keonjhar

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed authorized manufacturers/distributors mentioned in the tenders for supply of equipment of the Department of MME GCE, Keonjhar, through speed/registered post. The tender notice with detailed documents, terms, and conditions are available at the college website **www.gcekjr.ac.in**

The tenders supported by Tender Fees of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One thousand only) and EMD of Rs. 20,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) through two separate demand draft valid for a period of three months shall be submitted by the Tenderer, issued by any Nationalised Bank, drawn in favor of "**Principal, GCE Keonjhar**", payable at **Keonjhar.** Tenders should be addressed to The Principal, GCE Keonjhar, Old Town, Keonjhar 758002 and super-scribed "MME, GCE, Keonjhar" must be reached by Registry/Speed posts on or before 25-06-2026, 5.00 PM.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL GCE, Keonjhar
OIPR-11001/11067/1/26-27/0003

14001/30/2627

Directorate of Technical Education & Training, Odisha

At-Killamaidan, PO-Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001
Phone No-0671 2301061, e-mail: dtetorissa@gmail.com

NIT No. DTET/2026-27/6541 **Date: 01.06.2026**

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
From the OEMs/authorised Channel Partners

DTE&T Odisha under the administrative control of Skill Development & Technical Education Department, Government of Odisha (the Client) invites both Technical & Financial proposals from the eligible OEMs/authorised channel partners for the following tenders through Odisha Government e-Procurement System (**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**).

1. Procurement of Mechanical equipment for Govt. ITIs & Govt. Polytechnics/Engineering Schools of Odisha.
2. Procurement of Automobile equipment for Govt. ITIs & Govt. Polytechnics/Engineering Schools of Odisha.
3. Procurement of IT equipment for Govt. ITIs & Govt. Polytechnics/Engineering Schools of Odisha.

The RFP documents shall be available from 03/06/2026 onwards in the Odisha Government e-Procurement Portal (**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**) & DTE&T Odisha website (**www.dtet.odisha.gov.in/en/tenders**). If required, further intimation [i.e. Corrigendum/Addendum/Responses to the queries/Clarifications etc.], shall be uploaded in the above websites only. DTE&T Odisha reserves all the rights to reject any or all proposals at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
DTE&T, Odisha, Cuttack
OIPR-14001/14004/1/26-27/0002

25001/289/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com
Letter No. 1687 Date: 26.05.2026

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Through GePNIC

e_Procurement Notice

1 Name of the work : **Road works for the Year 2026-2027 (Total Thirty- Seven (37) Nos of Works)**
2 Class of contractor : **"B" Class, "A" Class & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class other licensing authority.**
3 Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs. 126.94 Lakhs to Rs.746.63 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4 Details projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender: Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada	NCB-07/ RWCRGDA/ 2026-2027	Dt. 05.06.2026 at 11.00A.M.	Dt.23.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.22.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M	Dt.24.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site **https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Rayagada
OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0014

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP portal) (2nd Call)

BWSSB invites TENDERS in Two Stage Tender System from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Used Water Projects), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(UWP-2)/DCE(UWP)/TA/387/2026-27		**Date:02.06.2026**
1	Deployment of Manpower for Project Monitoring Consultants (PMC) and review of documents for the proposed 100 MLD STP at Mylasandra.	Rs. 410.28 Lakhs / Rs. 6,15,000/-
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(UWP-2)/DCE(UWP)/TA/389/2026-27		**Date:02.06.2026**
2	Deployment of Manpower for Project Monitoring Consultants (PMC) and review of documents for the proposed 100 MLD STP at Doddabele.	Rs. 410.28 Lakhs / Rs. 6,15,000/-
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)//DCE(UWP)/TA/391/2026-27		**Date:02.06.2026**
3	Deployment of Manpower for Project Monitoring Consultants (PMC) and review of documents for the proposed 50 MLD STP at Kadubeesanahalli, 20 MLD STP at Koramangala, 20 MLD STP at Kadugudi, 10 MLD STP at Basavanapura.	Rs. 471.08 Lakhs / Rs. 7.066 Lakhs

For the above works, the last date for submission of tender documents is on **12.06.2026 at 17.30 Hrs.** The Technical bids will be opening on **15.06.2026 at 11.00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(used Water Projects)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/YC/948/2026-27

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From Advice To Advocacy

Beyond Mentorship: How To Get A Sponsor To Back You

By Rituparna Chakraborty

The sentence that changes your career is rarely said to your face. It is usually spoken in a room, after the meeting, in succession chatter, a client debrief, or over a call: "She's ready." "Put him on this." "You should meet her."

Careers rarely move on aura alone. They move when somebody credible is willing to place their reputation next to your name.

Mentor and sponsor are often treated as interchangeable. They are not. A mentor helps you think better. A sponsor helps the room think of you. The Center for Creative Leadership says mentors provide guidance, while sponsors use influence to advocate for bigger roles and high-visibility assignments, including behind closed doors. A mentor sharpens you; a sponsor creates lift.

McKinsey's 2025 research found that women in India make up 33% of entry-level workers but only 24% of managers, with the sharpest drop occurring at the first move up. The same report identifies mentorship and sponsorship programmes as policies associated with better advancement outcomes.

So, how do you get a career sponsor on board?

Make your work speak

The first operator mistake is assuming good work explains itself. It rarely does. Personal branding is the strategic practice of defining and expressing your value. Translated into office language, it means: can somebody senior describe your usefulness in one line, without you in the room?

The most sponsorable professionals are not always the loudest. They are the easiest to trust in motion: He steadies difficult clients. She handles ambiguity. He improves decision quality and so on.

Build sponsorable moments

Sponsors are not created over a single coffee chat. They emerge when a senior leader sees repeatable evidence that backing you is low-risk and high-upside. That means creating sponsorable moments: solving a messy problem no one owned, rescuing a cross-functional project, making a boss look more prepared without turning it into theatre, or handling pressure without leaking panic into the system.

Translate brand into trust

The phrase personal brand makes many Indian professionals uneasy because it sounds performative. That does not mean everyone must become a content machine. It means your public and private reputation should reinforce each other. The strongest brands sound the same in a boardroom, on a client call, on a LinkedIn profile and in the closed-door discussion where names are tested.

Capability gets you considered, but advocacy changes your speed. The professionals who rise are people whose work has become so legible, steady and confidence-inducing that somebody important is willing to say their name when it counts.

(The writer is partner, India lead, True Search and former CEO of TeamLease)

KUTCH RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED
Recruitment Notice for
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Vacancy Notice No. - 01 Dated: 22/04/2026

CORRIGENDUM

Earlier, applications were invited for the one (1) post of **Chief Financial Officer** wherein instructions were given to submit the application by 21st May, 2026. Now, the Competent Authority has **extended the last date for submission of applications by 22nd June, 2026.** Therefore, willing candidates may apply in the prescribed format latest by 22nd June, 2026. All other terms and conditions etc. shall remain the same as per the detailed Vacancy Notice available on official website of the company at **www.kutchrail.org**

Company Secretary
Kutch Railway Company Limited

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Why HRT is making a comeback to tackle menopause rollercoaster

With US FDA removing its warning last year, Indian doctors are recommending judicious use of hormone replacement therapy & women are opting for it. But it's not for everyone

Mini.Thomas@timesofindia.com

"I sleep like a babe wrapped in cotton wool. My afternoon energy dips are gone. My moods are stabilising.... I wonder why I didn't start earlier."

Actor Lisa Ray posted this on her Instagram after convincing herself to go for Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) at 53 last year, a good 16 years after chemo-induced menopause. She regretted the delay owing to unfounded cancer fears, and spoke about how women get "gaslit" into making light of their menopause symptoms while suffering silently.

Indian women struggling with menopause and perimenopause are putting stigma aside and warming to HRT, especially after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed the 'black box' warning on menopause-related HRT products (also known as Menopausal Hormone Therapy) in Nov 2025. "Now we know that judicious use of HRT can delay or reduce adverse effects of menopause for about five to 10 years," says Dr Ambrish Mithal, chairman and head of endocrinology at Max Healthcare, Delhi. "The benefits are more striking in perimenopausal women (those within five to 10 years of menopause) and those who have had hysterectomy."

CHOOSING THE RIGHT THERAPY

1 Estrogen-only HRT: For women whose uterus has been removed. Taken as tablets. Patches and gels are other options but may not be easily available in India.

2 Estrogen + progestogen HRT: For women who still have their uterus. Gives both hormones regularly and usually stops monthly bleeding after the first few months. Often used after menopause.

3 Cyclical hormone therapy: Estrogen is taken daily; progestogen is added for 10–14 days a month. This can cause a planned period-like bleed and is usually used around perimenopause.

4 Tibolone: A synthetic hormone-like medicine that acts like estrogen, progesterone and testosterone in the body. Most women do not get bleeding with it.

5 Local vaginal estrogen: Only Used mainly for vaginal dryness, burning, painful sex or urinary discomfort linked to menopause.

WHO MAY BENEFIT

- Patients going through menopause with hot flushes and mood swings; those experiencing early menopause
- Those having perimenopausal symptoms, with family history of osteoporosis or low bone density
- Younger women close to menopause, and those within 5-10 years after menopause (within 45 to 55 age bracket)

HRT'S CHECKERED HISTORY

HRT had been widely used in the West till the early 2000s. Then, the 2002 Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study reported increased risks of breast cancer, heart disease, stroke and clotting, leading to a major decline in worldwide use. Experts now believe those findings lacked thorough evidence. In 2019, Italian gynaecologists published a paper in the journal Medicina, detailing the controversial history of HRT. "The surge in HRT use was abruptly stopped by publication of the WHI trial, which was inadequately designed, evaluated, and reported. The damage done was huge, leaving many symptomatic women without an effective treatment," the Italian paper said.

Newer analyses suggest HRT risks are confined to specific patient groups and certain formulations, leaving the vast majority to gain substantial health and quality-of-life benefits. For instance, HRT can maintain bone health to lengthen one's health span. "Estrogen clearly protects the bone, reducing risks of osteoporosis and hip fractures that are quite common among Indian women," explains Dr Mithal, adding that HRT is effective for symptoms like night sweat, hot flushes, mood changes and sleep problems as women go through menopause.

Kavya Shetty (name changed), a 52-year-old teacher from Gurgaon, couldn't agree more. For her, navigating menopause meant mood swings, intense hot flushes, poor sleep for about two years, and joint pain in fingers and knuckles despite strength training, recurrent UTI and urinary urgency. "I was treated with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories without any lasting resolution," she recalls. After the FDA announcement, her doctor recommended HRT. "My hot flushes resolved within about two weeks, joint pain disappeared, urinary tract infections stopped, and most importantly, sleep returned to normal," says Kavya.

It's beneficial for the skin too. Dr DM Mahajan, a dermatologist at Delhi's Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, says HRT, if started within 10 years of menopause or perimenopause, can keep skin youthful, improving overall appearance and glow.

Dr Pooja Mathew, consultant-obstetrician and gynaecologist at Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru adds that it is also effective for treating vaginal dryness and painful sexual intercourse.

A study by Chinese researchers published in American Journal of Translational Research in 2025 found that HRT greatly improves quality of life for menopausal women by restoring hormonal balance and easing urinary and reproductive system symptoms. The researchers also debunked heart health fears, saying HRT doesn't lead to abnormal lipids. Hyderabad-based Dr KVS Harikumar, secretary of Endocrine Society of India, argues that maintaining hormonal balance through HRT during menopause would also serve as a performance boost for women in offices and boardrooms.

DEBUNKING THE CONCERNS

The fear of breast cancer looms large over those deciding whether to go for HRT. "While prolonged HRT use does raise breast cancer concerns in older women, data indicates minimal negative impact in younger post-menopausal women, making it more appropriate for those up to 55," says Dr Mithal.

Estrogen has been associated with clotting, and blood clots are rare but possible with HRT. But it's mostly linked to liver-mediated clotting factor changes with oral therapy. But estrogen alone could increase the risk of uterine cancer. Hence Dr Anu Sridhar, senior consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology at Fortis Hospital, Bengaluru, prescribes a combination of estrogen and progesterone. Dr Kiran Coelho, head of obstetrics and gynaecology at Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai, recommends HRT to symptomatic patients, stressing that it now uses the same hormones present in our body, not crude molecules that were used earlier. "These new molecules reduce the risk of breast cancer and clots, alleviating symptoms without major side effects," she adds.

But what kind of HRT works best: the pill or the patch? Doctors say transdermal patches are safer and superior to tablets because they avoid first-pass liver metabolism (how liver processes drugs) and may reduce clotting-related side effects a patient may experience. But they are scarce in India. Most patches can be used once or twice a week. Dr Mahajan notes hot, sweaty Indian conditions can make patches hard to keep secured onto the skin. "Transdermal gels can be used as an alternative to patches," he says.

For some doctors, though, HRT is the last resort. Gynaecologist Dr Jasmin Reza Susarla of Motherhood Hospitals, Kolkata encourages patients to engage in strength training, and include foods high in phytoestrogens like soy, flax and beans. Lifestyle changes are welcome, but Dr Mithal insists, "The right hormone at the right time through the right route should not be denied to women."

Diabetes clues your sugar test may miss

Visceral fat to lipid markers and gene tests, the diagnostic spectrum has evolved

Steffy.Thevar@timesofindia.com

A simple glucose test is no longer the be-all and end-all of diabetes diagnosis. As it moves beyond types 1 and 2, with researchers discovering newer phenotypes and their unique challenges, diabetologists now argue that a glucose-centric paradigm fails to capture the full spectrum of the chronic condition, often detecting it a little late in the day.

The future of early diabetes diagnosis rests on a comprehensive metabolic health assessment, rather than isolated glucose values, points out Dr Rajiv Kovil, head of diabetology at Zandra Healthcare, Mumbai. "Solely relying on fasting glucose, postprandial sugars, or the glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) test trivialises diabetes, detecting it only after significant metabolic damage has already occurred," he says.

Fatty liver disease often precedes diabetes and is now recognised as a hepatic manifestation of insulin resistance. Fatty liver imaging, blood-based tests such as validated fibrosis (to detect liver scarring) and steatosis scores (that quantify liver fat) can be important markers of diabetes risk, Dr Kovil explains, adding, "Body fat percentage, and visceral and ectopic fat measurement can provide a far better insight into metabolic risk than BMI. Triglyceride-to-HDL ratio, triglyceride-glucose (TyG) index, and postprandial lipid tests are also strong predictors of future diabetes and cardiovascular disease."

TOI HealthTech

India, the diabetes capital of the world, is seeing a paradigm shift in diabetes understanding with the recognition of phenotypes such as Type 3 (connecting diabetes with Alzheimer's disease), Type 4 (in lean, elderly folk) and Type 5 (owing to childhood malnutrition), all having atypical metabolic profiles.

A recent study by doctors at Pune's BJ Govt Medical College reported the case of a male infant, born at 27 weeks and weighing 720 gm, who had frequent urination and no weight gain despite regular breastfeeding. "We presumed it was Type 1 diabetes but went for a gene test," says study author Dr Pragathi Kamath. "During the early neonatal period, the baby developed persistent hyperglycaemia due to insulin deficiency — an extremely rare condition called Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus (NDM). Despite needing insulin therapy initially, the baby's diabetes resolved spontaneously, confirming diagnosis."

Genetic testing revealed a homozygous mutation (identical mutated gene inherited from both parents) in MS4A6A, a gene never associated with NDM before. "The case highlighted that a newborn's genetic profile is crucial to know the true cause of diabetes and prevent lifelong insulin therapy," adds Dr Kamath. The study was published in the journal Cureus.

Other diagnostic tools include dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA), an imaging technique being repurposed to quantify visceral fat, a significant risk factor for metabolic syndrome and Type 2 diabetes. Visceral fat is also associated with increased secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines and adipokines, leading to insulin resistance and beta-cell dysfunction.

Dr Kovil says continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) offers a powerful early tool, revealing post-meal excursions, glycemic variability, and time-above-range long before conventional criteria are met. While fasting insulin levels are a hallmark of Type 2 diabetes, offering insight into degree of insulin resistance, Hyperinsulinemic-Euglycemic Clamp Technique remains the gold standard for assessing insulin sensitivity for the whole body.

Although glucose-based criteria are necessary for diagnosis, experts insists that in order to differentiate between types, clinicians must use context, history, phenotype, and autoantibodies or C-peptide tests, when needed.

What are other detection tools?

Non-invasive markers:

- **Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM)** is a small arm sensor that tracks glucose fluctuations 24/7 to identify silent sugar spikes, nocturnal hypoglycemia, and glucose variability
- **Retinal/Iris AI Scans** can detect early diabetic retinopathy, vascular changes, heart risk
- **Body composition analysis** measures visceral fat, muscle-to-fat ratio. Higher ratio means higher metabolic dysfunction risk

Blood markers:

- **HOMA-IR (Homeostatic Model Assessment of Insulin Resistance)** uses fasting insulin and glucose to identify insulin resistance before diabetes develops
- **Triglyceride-to-HDL Ratio** is used as a surrogate for insulin resistance and 'metabolic unhealthy obesity'
- **1,5-Anhydroglucitol (1,5-AG)** detects short-term glucose spikes like post-meal hyperglycemia that HbA1c may miss

TIMES NATION

NFHS: Obesity up sharply, as are high blood sugar levels

South, Coastal Regions Hit Hardest: Survey

Anuja.Jaiswal
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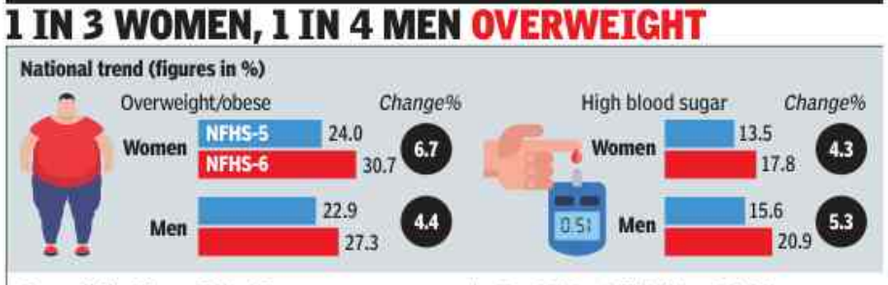
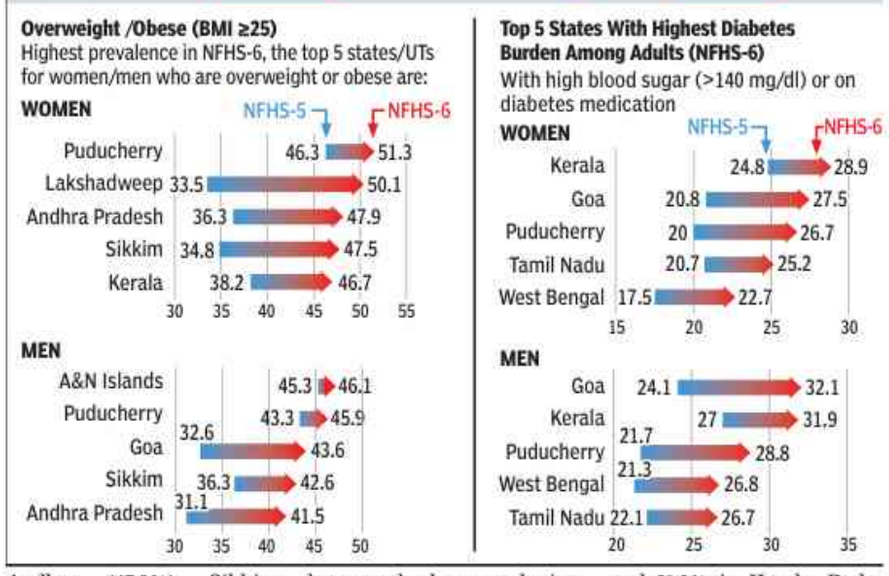
New Delhi: India's battle against lifestyle diseases is intensifying, with the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) revealing a sharp rise in both obesity and high blood sugar levels among adults. Nearly one in three women and more than one in four men are now overweight or obese. The share of adults with elevated blood sugar has also climbed significantly since the previous survey.

The survey found 30.7% of women aged 15-49 years were overweight or obese, up from 24% in NFHS-5. Among men, the figure rose from 22.9% to 27.3%. At the same time, the proportion of women with high blood sugar levels or taking medication for diabetes increased from 13.5% to 17.8%, while the corresponding figure among men jumped from 15.6% to 20.9%.

The rise is particularly pronounced in southern and coastal regions, with several states emerging as obesity and diabetes hotspots. Puducherry recorded the highest prevalence of overweight and obesity among women at 51.3%, meaning more than half of adult women are overweight or obese. It was followed by Lakshadweep (50.1%), Andhra (47.9%), Sikkim (47.5%), and Kerala (46.7%).

1 IN 3 WOMEN, 1 IN 4 MEN OVERWEIGHT





Among men, the highest levels were reported from Andaman and Nicobar (46.1%), Puducherry (45.9%), Goa (43.6%), Sikkim (42.6%), and Andhra (41.5%). Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, senior consultant, internal medicine, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said rise in obesity among women could be linked to hormonal changes during puberty, pregnancy and menopause, coupled with lower levels of physical activity.

Among women, 28.9% in Kerala and 27.5% in Goa had high blood sugar levels or were taking medication to control diabetes, followed by Puducherry (26.7%), TN (25.2%) and Bengal (22.7%). Among men, the figures were even higher, reaching 32.1% in Goa and 31.9% in Kerala. Puducherry (28.8%), Bengal (26.8%) and TN (26.7%) also figured among the states with the highest prevalence of elevated blood sugar. Public health experts say the findings reflect a growing burden of non-communicable diseases linked to sedentary lifestyles, calorie-dense diets, reduced physical activity and ageing populations.

Maharashtra approves ₹36,585cr loan waiver for 56 lakh farmers

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Mumbai: The Maharashtra state cabinet Tuesday approved a loan waiver for farmers amounting to Rs 36,585 crore. The move will benefit 55.7 lakh farmers.

The cabinet took the decision to provide relief to farmers burdened with debt in the wake of insufficient rain, and a possible drought, in the state. The waiver was a promise made to voters during the assembly election campaign of 2024. The cabinet decided to deposit the waiver sum in the bank accounts of farmers before June 20 under the Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farmers' Loan Waiver Scheme, which provides benefits up to Rs 2 lakh.

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said that while a decision was taken in the cabinet, it was not announced due to the poll code of conduct, which was in place for the legislative council election. The scheme will cover more than 65 lakh accounts.

"Through this scheme, it was announced that farmers whose crop loans are outstanding as of Sept 30, 2025, will be given a loan waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh and an incentive of Rs 50,000 will be given to farmers who repay their crop loans regularly. Now the govt will pay the entire loan of farmers with outstanding loans up to Rs 2 lakh. The govt will pay the loan of Rs 2 lakh only after farmers with loans of more than Rs 2 lakh have paid their loans above Rs 2 lakh. While those who repay their loans regularly will be given an incentive grant of Rs 50,000," an official said.

The opposition had slammed the state govt for delaying the loan till June.

₹50,000 INCENTIVE FOR PROMPT REPAYMENT

Waiver: Up to ₹2L per farmer for short-term crop loans **overdue as of Sept 30, 2025**

- Those with over ₹2L loans to get relief **only after they repay dues above ₹2L**
- ₹50,000 incentive to be paid to those **who repay their loans regularly**

PREVIOUS WAIVERS IN STATE

Dec 2019 | MVA govt provided up to ₹2L waiver for loans disbursed between April 2015 and March 2019 | **₹20,497cr** disbursed

2017 | BJP-Sena govt provided up to ₹1.5L waiver for loans overdue between 2001 and 2016 | **₹18,762cr** distributed

₹11LCr Projected state debt in 2026–27

Russia remains India's largest crude supplier

▶ Continued from page 1

Data showed that Russia continued to be India's largest crude supplier, being an important source of supply security during a period of heightened market uncertainty, while West Asian flows became more uneven, particularly from Iraq and Kuwait. The UAE emerged as the second-largest oil supplier in May, followed by Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Venezuela.

Regular sourcing of crude from Russia helped India reduce immediate exposure to disruptions in Strait of Hormuz. LPG supplies from West Asia, however, continued to remain disrupted. Imports fell sharply from more than two million tonnes a month in Jan-Feb to 1-1.2 million tonnes in March-May. Higher inflows from the US, ramped-up domestic production and demand management helped plug the supply gap.

Srinagar airport closure in Oct raises concerns

Srinagar: Airports Authority of India plans to suspend operations at Srinagar airport for 16 days in Oct for runway maintenance works, raising alarm among tour operators who fear the shutdown would deal a blow to an industry still reeling from last year's Pahalgam attack during peak Durga Puja holiday season when droves of Bengali tourists visit Jammu & Kashmir, reports **Naseer Ganai**.

An AAI official said IAF, which operates the airfield, proposed a phased maintenance schedule between July 1 and Sept 30, when services would be stopped every Monday and Tuesday, culminating in the full closure from Oct 1-16. The official said an advisory was issued on the directions of civil aviation ministry. Stakeholders expressed concern over the timing and urged the govt to reconsider the schedule.

Supply of drugs affects nation's economy: SC

▶ Continued from page 1

In view of the said reference, we do not wish to deliberate on this issue further, save and except that in our view paramount consideration is nothing but the interest of justice for all. Should there be any conflict between the sovereignty of country and personal liberty, undoubtedly, the former shall prevail, particularly, when a war is waged against the nation, be it in the form of supply of drugs, which vitally affects the nation's economy and health of the people," it said,

The bench cancelled the bail of a person who was caught with 1.5 kg of heroin in Punjab. Justices Karol and Singh said incarceration of one year and seven months is not long enough to grant him bail for violation of personal liberty, as he could get a maximum sentence of 20 years if found guilty.

The court noted that the issue of bail on the ground of delay in trial and prolonged incarceration has been referred to a larger bench in view of conflicting opinions given by different benches while interpreting a 2021 three-judge bench order.

In its order, the bench gave a list of seven cases in which bail was granted in some, while in two bails were cancelled. In all the cases, the period of incarceration was between two and four years.

"While this court has recognised on several occasions that prolonged incarceration warrants the grant of bail in view of Article 21 of the Constitution, we have noticed that the application thereof is not uniform. Moreover, there is no doubt that what constitutes 'prolonged incarceration' for the purposes of bail, has not been expounded by this court or the law of the land," the bench said.

El Niño usually linked with weak monsoon

▶ Continued from page 1

We need to prepare for a potentially strong El Niño event – which will exacerbate drought and heavy rainfall and increase the risk of heatwaves both on land and in the ocean. The most recent El Niño, in 2023-24, was one of the five strongest on record, and it played a role in the record global temperatures we saw in 2024," said WMO secretary-general Celeste Saulo.

El Niño is associated with weak monsoon and harsh summer in India.

Sensing the urgency, agriculture ministry held a meeting to review the country's preparedness, with Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan asking farmers not to panic and directing vulnerable states to remain alert and work in coordination with Centre.

Foreigners can register on app or fill Form-I

▶ Continued from page 1

Such registration pleas must also be filed prior to expiry of the 180-day stay.

Under the amended rule, foreigners wanting extension of their 180-day stay visa will need to register with the foreigners registration officer or foreigners regional registration officer (FRO/FRRO) prior to the expiry date. Such registration may be through a dedicated mobile application or by filing Form-I before the registration officer via the online foreigner registration portal.

On children born to foreigners in India, the rule requiring the latter to electronically intimate the FRO/FRRO within 30 days of the birth to avail visa services, including exit permission, has been waived off where one of the parent is an Indian citizen and wishes to retain Indian citizenship of the child under Section 3 of the Citizenship Act, 1955. However, if the child acquires citizenship of a foreign country while in India at a later stage, either of the parents shall intimate the position to the registration officer within 30 days of acquiring the citizenship of the foreign country by the child.

Another amendment to Rule 18(6) mandates hospitals and other medical institutions to transmit details of departure of any foreigner or overseas citizen of India patient to the registration officer as soon as possible but not beyond 24 hours.

Protest will be non-violent & constitutional, says Dipke

▶Continued from page 1

On June 6, after landing at the airport. **Abhijeet Dipke** intends to walk to Parliament Street police station to formally request permission for a demonstration to the end point at Jantar Mantar. The protest, he says, will remain non-violent and constitutional.

"I am pretty confident there will be consequences upon my return, (but) I am also sure about coming back," Dipke told TOI from the US. But he remains optimistic too. "There are many people who have extended their support and said they will join the peaceful protest. I am coming back to exercise my fundamental right given to me by the Constitution of India," he added.

The protest comes amid several examination controversies, including the NEET paper leak row and concerns surrounding recruitment and entrance examinations such as CUET, CBSE and SSC GD that Dipke says have "upended the future of more than 10 million students".

Dipke said the issue goes beyond any single examination. "The longer plan is to fix accountability within the govt," he said.

Asked whether concerns about his family or threats he's received worried him, Dipke replied in the negative. "I have already dealt with all kinds of death threats in the last few days," he said. He's also unfazed by allegations about his funding and claims that he's trying to trigger a Gen Z revolution of the kind witnessed in Bangladesh and Nepal. "All I have done is question the govt," he said.

16k have successfully filed re-eval applications: CBSE

▶Continued from P1

The CBSE re-evaluation portal is currently supporting more than 8,000 concurrent users. As of 3pm today (Tuesday), over 16,000 students have successfully submitted their applications," the board said. "While thousands of students accessed the CBSE re-evaluation portal today, malicious actors attempted to disrupt services through a barrage of cyberattacks," it added. Srinivas L, joint MD and joint CEO of 63SATS Cybertech, described the alleged attack as "a coordinated, two-pronged operation".

"The DOS (disk operating system) is the smokescreen. The file access probing is what they actually came for. You don't throw that kind of volume at a portal unless you're trying to pull something out while everyone's busy fighting the fire," Srinivas said.

He warned that examination platforms remain highly vulnerable because attack windows are predictable and the data involved includes minors' personal information, scanned answer sheets and Aadhaar-linked identity details. "Most of these platforms are sized for a normal day's traffic, not a deliberate surge built to break them," he said.

CBSE maintained that despite the attacks, the portal remained operational and had been refined after student feedback, including extension of session time limits to make submissions "more convenient". The portal went live a day after its scheduled launch on June 1. CBSE officials had earlier attributed the postponement to technical issues, triggering anxiety among students awaiting access for verification and re-evaluation after obtaining scanned copies of answer scripts.

Students, however, continued to report difficulties. Tridip Pramanick posted on X that correct chemistry answers had been marked wrong and urged CBSE to reopen the photocopy portal. Anshika Patel, said the platform repeatedly crashed during the scanned-copy application process, while Mahender S Mahara reported "access denied" errors and login failures even after launch.

Some students also said they were yet to receive scanned copies of answer sheets. CBSE had not responded to those complaints till the filing of this report.

IANS

Youth Congress workers burn an effigy during a protest against the alleged NEET paper leak in Amritsar on Tuesday

1-member panel set up to probe OSM tender

▶Continued from page 1

According to an office memorandum issued by the Cabinet Secretariat on Tuesday, govt has constituted a "one-member committee to inquire into matters relating to procurement of services for on-screen marking system by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)".

The panel will be headed by S Radha Chauhan, chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission. It also stated that the committee chairperson has been empowered to seek assistance from officers of other offices as required, while secretarial support will be provided by the Capacity Building Commission. The committee has been asked to submit its report to the department of personnel and training within one month. The memorandum was also marked to the principal secretary to the PM, indicating that the matter has reached the highest levels of govt scrutiny.

Sources in the education ministry said the inquiry would examine issues linked to the procurement process for the OSM system amid mounting concerns over its implementation. Govt sources indicated that action against the company was also "likely soon" if lapses in its procurement and implementation of the systeem are found.

'Issues to be addressed in production environment'

▶Continued from page 1

He pointed out alleged anomalies in the tendering process that allowed Coempt to be part of the bidding process. CBSE, however, maintained that changes were made to make the bidding more competitive.

A note from CERT-In shared with the committee headed by Congress MP Digvijaya Singh stated that the agency verified vulnerabilities flagged by users between Febend and May, and informed CBSE for rectification.

CBSE said in its communication that these issues would be addressed in the production environment. Some of the vulnerabilities were fixed.

CERT-In stated it verified the reported vulnerabilities and notified CBSE for rectification three times between Feb and May 25, and also to Amazon Web Services, which hosts parts of CBSE's digital infrastructure, on May 31, sources said, adding that it also provided emergency measures for handling vulnerabilities.

CBSE chairman Rahul Singh — who was shunted hours later as govt ordered a probe into the OSM procurement row — and school education secretary Sanjay Kumar were among the officials who appeared before the committee.

SC: Criminal cases on loan defaulters must end after settlement

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court has held that criminal proceedings should not be allowed to go on against a loan defaulter if the bank and the the debtor reached a compromise for settlement of the loan account. SC said it would have a debilitating effect on the overall economy if such proceedings are allowed.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said permitting such criminal proceedings would not only be oppressive for the loan defaulter but would also amount to an abuse of the process of the court after both the parties settle their dispute which is commercial in nature. It allowed the plea of a businessman who sought quashing of criminal case on the ground that he and the bank already compromised before debts recovery tribunal and paid the settlement amount of Rs 4.25 crore against the outstanding due of Rs 6.49 crore which included notional interest of Rs 3.09 crore.

"Having regard to the fact that the dispute between the parties arising out of banking transactions which are commercial transactions having overwhelmingly or predominantly civil flavour had ended in a compromise settlement, that too, in the manner which we have delineated above, in our view, the possibility of his conviction of appellant No.1 (businessman) is remote and bleak. Therefore, continuation of the criminal case would cause grave prejudice and injustice to the appellants," the bench said. In this case the bank had lodged criminal complaint of cheating and fraud against the borrower two years after settling the loan with him.

Rape accused faked death for 10 yrs, held after wife alerts cops

Hyderabad: In a dramatic twist, a rape accused who had gone missing after securing bail and was believed to have died, was found alive and hatching a plot to kill his wife. Karimnagar police in Telangana arrested the man, Mohammed Abdul Wajid alias Dhoom Khalid, on Monday after being alerted by his wife. He has been remanded in judicial custody.

Police said Khalid was arrested in 2016 on the charge of raping a student. Soon after, he was attacked by unidentified persons who crushed his legs with stones, leading to amputation. After being discharged from hospital, he was remanded in judicial custody, but later secured bail and disappeared, spreading word among acquaintances that he had died. The truth surfaced recently when his wife went to police and claimed Khalid was plotting her murder. Acting on her information, police tracked him down and arrested him. TNN

Dependent 'married daughter' entitled to compassionate employment: Court

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that a dependent married daughter could not be excluded from the definition of 'family' and would be entitled to seek employment or allotment of a ration shop if any of her parents died in harness.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe faulted a provision of a UP govt order relating to allotment of PDS shop on dependent quota for excluding married daughters from the definition of 'family' and said it breached the doctrine of equality embedded in the constitutional framework. "Exclusion of a married daughter from the definition of 'family' cannot be sustained," it said.

Writing the judgment, Justice Aradhe said marital status bore no rational nexus to the status of dependency and the object of compassionate appointment or allotment of ration shops, which is to enable the family to overcome financial hardship caused due to death of the bread earner.

The bench said marriage neither extinguished the bond between a daughter and her parental family nor furnished a valid basis to presume absence of dependency. The UP govt order included "unmarried, legally separated and widowed daughters" as dependents. The SC said it would mean to include dependent married daughters. "Contemporary social realities demonstrate that many married daughters continue to reside with, support or remain dependent upon their parents," it said and asked why a married daughter was excluded from the definition of 'family' when married sons were not.

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AN ISO 9001:2008 & ISO 14001:2004 CERTIFIED PORT
[ADVT. No.GA/PS/1981/ 2026/2723 dated 02/06/2026]
GatiShakti
विषय: प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर निम्नलिखित पद के लिए आवेदन अमंत्रित किए जाते हैं:-
Sub: Applications are invited for following post by deputation basis:-
1.) मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी / Chief Medical Officer)
[Total 01 Post (UR-01)] / (Scale of Pay of 100000-260000 - IDA pattern)]
दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण, जो कि पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण के अंतर्गत भारत का नंबर 1 प्रमुख पत्तनस्थान है, पात्र और इच्छुक उम्मेदवारों से उपर्युक्त मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है, जिन्हें तीन वर्ष की प्रारंभिक अवधि के लिए प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर भरा जाएगा।
The Deendayal Port Authority, India's No. 1 Major Port under the administrative control of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India, invites applications from eligible and interested candidates for the above mentioned post of Chief Medical Officer to be filled by deputation basis for initial period of three years.
सम्पूर्ण विज्ञापन, आवेदन पत्र एवं अन्य विवरण के लिए कृपया दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.deendayalport.gov.in के रिक्रूटमेंट सेक्शन पर जाएं।
For complete advertisement, application form & other details please refer Recruitment Section of Deendayal Port Authority's website at www.deendayalport.gov.in.
ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 02/07/2026 है।
Last date of submission of online application is 02/07/2026
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Last date of submission of hard copy of application is 13/07/2026
सचिव / Secretary
दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण,
Deendayal Port Authority

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Statutory body under an Act of Parliament
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)
ADVT. NO. 03/2026
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is a statutory body set up under an Act of Parliament, the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, to regulate and develop the profession of Company Secretaries in India. The ICSI invites applications for the following posts at its Mumbai Office:-

S. No.	Name of the Post	Location	No. of Posts	Pay Level as per 7th CPC Pay Matrix (Rs.)	Gross Salary per Annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	Max. Age (as on 01.05.2026)
1.	Director (Academics)	Mumbai	01	Level 13 (123100-215900)	29.44	50 years
2.	Deputy Director (Academics)	Mumbai	01	Level 11 (67700-208700)	16.81	40 years
3.	Executive (Academics)	Mumbai	03	Level 8 (47600-151100)	11.54	35 years

For further details viz. qualification, experience, procedure for submission of application etc., please visit website www.icsi.edu/careers on and from 30.05.2026. Interested candidates may apply only through electronic mode (Online). Last date for submission of application (Online) is 19.06.2026. Reservation policy will be applicable as adopted by the "ICSI" in its Service Rules. The "ICSI" reserves the right to increase/decrease or even not to fill up any posts as per its requirement.
www.icsi.edu/careers
ICSI House, 22, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi–110003
Phone : 011-45341036/92 email : hr.dept@icsi.edu Website : www.icsi.edu

Industry 4.0 Innovation Center
(CPSE-led Hi-Tech Tool Room & Service Bureau)
(Anchored by Numaligarh Refinery Limited)
Industry 4.0 Innovation Centre, a Society established for commissioning and operation of a CPSE-led Hi-Tech Tool Room & Service Bureau at Guwahati (Assam), invites applications from eligible candidates for appointment to the following position:

Position	Scale of Pay (IDA)	Vacancy Date
Director	₹1,50,000/- – ₹3,00,000/-	01.07.2026

The Industry 4.0 Innovation Centre has been established pursuant to the Union Budget FY 2026-27 for promoting Industry 4.0 and Frontier Technologies through collaboration with CPSEs, MSMEs, Industries, Startups, Academic Institutions and National/International Agencies.
Details regarding eligibility criteria, age, experience, pay scale, application process and other terms & conditions are available at www.i4icenter.com, www.i4icenter.org, www.nrl.co.in .
Last Date for Receipt of Applications: 30th June 2026 (up to 1600 Hrs)
Applications along with supporting documents should be submitted to:
Secretary
Industry 4.0 Innovation Centre
NRL Centre, 122 A, G.S. Road, Christian Basti, Guwahati – 781005, Assam
Email: manipranjal.saikia@nrl.co.in
Advertisement No.: 05/2026
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www.hindustancopper.com
Recruitment Notification for Appointment to Executive Positions
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	E2	E3	E4	Total
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Geology	2 (UR:2)	3 (OBC:1; UR:2)		5
Environment Management	3 (OBC:1; UR:2)			3
Safety & Fire Service	4 (SC:1; OBC:1; EWS:1; UR:1)			4
Concentrator	3 (OBC:1; UR:2)			3
Electrical	4 (SC:1; OBC:1; UR:2)	5 (SC:1; OBC:1; EWS:1; UR:2)		9
Instrumentation		3 (OBC:1; UR:2)		3
Mechanical	4 (SC:1; OBC:1; UR:2)	2 (UR:2)	2 (OBC:1; UR:1)	8
Civil	3 (OBC:1;UR:2)			3
Systems	1 (UR)			1
Medical & Health Services		2 (SC:1; UR:1)	1 (UR)	3
HR			4 (SC:1; OBC:1; EWS:1; UR:1)	4
Finance	4 (OBC:1; EWS:1; UR:2)	1 (OBC)	2 (OBC:1; UR:1)	7
Corporate Communication	1 (UR)			1
Materials & Contracts (M&C)	2 (ST:1 [BL]; UR:1)		2 (OBC:1; UR:1)	4
Total	38	16	16	70

Interested candidates may visit career page of HCL website, viz., www.hindustancopper.com, for complete details regarding posts, age, educational qualifications, reservation of posts, etc., details.To apply on-line eligible candidate may register themselves on HCL website. No other means/mode of application shall be accepted.
On-line application starts from 05/06/2026 (11.00 A.M) and shall remain open till 25/06/2026 (Midnight).
Regd. Office : Tamra Bhavan, 1, Ashutosh Chowdhury Avenue, Kolkata - 700 019
CIN: L27201WB1967GOI028825, Tel: 033 2283-2226, Mobile : 8218729903
E-mail: careers@hindustancopper.com, Website: www.hindustancopper.com

MUMBAI PORT AUTHORITY
Invites applications from candidates for the following posts on regular/contract basis

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of posts
(1)	Marine Engineer – Regular	01 (ST)
(2)	Pilot – Regular	22 (UR-13, SC-4, ST-2, OBC-3)
(3)	Marine Engineer – (On Contract)	05
(4)	Pilot on contract under Scheme I or Scheme II	

The advertisements for all above mentioned posts are open ended.
For details regarding eligibility criteria, etc., interested candidates may visit our website www.mumbaiport.gov.in (People&Career/Jobs/Advertisements) and submit their applications in the prescribed format by downloading the same from our website.
MANAGER (HR)

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All updates/corrigendum/Modifications (if any) in this regard will be published only on the aforesaid website at Career under HR section.

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान बोधगया
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Position (R–Regular, C–Contractual)	Level (7th CPC)	Category (No. of Positions)
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Executive Engineer (R/C)	11	UR (1)
Administrative Officer (Admin.) (C)	10	NC-OBC (1)
Administrative Officer (Programs) (R/C)	10	EWS (1)
Administrative Officer (Purchase) (R/C)	10	UR (1)
Finance & Accounts Officer (R/C)	10	UR (1)
Legal Officer (C)	Rs. 50-60 K (Consolidated)	UR (1)
AAO (International Relations) (R/C)	8	UR (1)
Assistant Student Counsellor (R/C)	8	NC-OBC (1)
Office Assistant (R/C)	6	UR (1), ST (1)
IT & Computer Assistant (R/C)	6	UR (1)
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a)The Secretary, The Delhi Public School Society, F-Block, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065.
b)The Secretary, Steel Education Society (SES), Room No. 01, Office of Employee Services, Old Hospital Building, Sector-5, Bhilai – 490006.
c)Last date for submission of applications on-line is 15/06/2026.
d)Last date for receipt of hardcopy of applications at DPSS, New Delhi and SES, Bhilai, is 25/06/2026.
3.The envelope should be superscribed: 'Application for the post of Principal, DPS Bhilai'
4.Incomplete or erroneous applications will be summarily rejected.
5.Please do not enclose any other document (like letters of appreciation, certificates of participation etc) with your application other than those specified above.
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			Deputation Basis	Parent Department pay plus deputation allowance	

The advertisement is only indicative. The detailed vacancy notification and particulars regarding the eligibility criterion, qualification, experience, age limit, mode of selection, etc., are available in the Career Section of the DMRC website: www.delhimetrorail.com, under ADVT No. DMRC/PERS/22/HR/2026 (230).
Additional General Manager (HR) Project
Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
Metro Bhawan, Fire Brigade Lane, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi
Advertisement No.: DMRC/990/2026

IIM MUMBAI
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(Ministry of Education, Government of India)
Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
VIKSIT BHARAT @2047
Advertisement for Teaching and Non-Teaching Positions
IIM Mumbai invites applications for Teaching and Non-Teaching positions from eligible candidates.

Advt. Number & Date	Name of posts
Admn/Rectt/Faculty/2025/10 dated 19 December 2025	Associate Professor
Admn/Rectt/2026/15 dated 27 May 2026	Junior Assistant (Admin) Junior Assistant (Program)
Admn/Rectt/2026/16 dated 27 May 2026	Management Trainee (Admin) Management Trainee

For detailed advertisements, please visit
https://iimmumbai.ac.in/careers
Chief Administrative Officer

CONTRAPUNTO

Invention, it must be humbly admitted, does not consist in creating out of void, but out of chaos

– MARY SHELLEY

Shot In The Arm

Zaynich is proof that Indian pharma wants to move up the value chain. Govt can help with laws and incentives

Over 80 years, ever since mass production of penicillin began, antibiotics have saved more than 20cr lives. Thanks to them, we live 23 years longer now, on average. But overuse and abuse of these life-saving drugs have enabled some germs to resist them. That's called AMR – antimicrobial resistance – and it's a big problem. AMR is estimated to have killed 12.7L people globally in 2019, and could kill 1cr a year by 2050. To prevent that, we need more powerful antibiotics. And Zaynich, a new drug made by Indian pharma firm Wockhardt, is just that.

Zaynich is also a rare moment in India's pharma story. This is the first USFDA-approved NCE or 'new chemical entity', fully designed, developed and commercialised by an Indian firm. Earlier, Indian firm Orchid Pharma had invented enmetazobactam, a powerful drug to fight AMR, but it had outsourced human trials. Regardless, enmetazobactam also got USFDA approval in 2024, and Orchid reacquired rights over it last Oct. That's two aces for India, with potentially billions of dollars in revenue. Wockhardt estimates Zaynich alone could earn up to $1.5bn a year.

An excellent start, but what's next? The good news is that Indian pharma firms have several more NCEs in the pipeline. While our generics make headlines with exports and revenues, there's a whole drawer of innovative products taking shape. In fact, it started in 2005, when India modified patent laws to cover product innovation in pharma, rather than process innovation alone. But is it fast enough? China, another generics giant, is now a leading pharma innovator. A Goldman Sachs report says about 25% of innovative drug candidates now originate in China, and 46% of NCEs that entered human trials between Jan and June 2025 were Chinese.

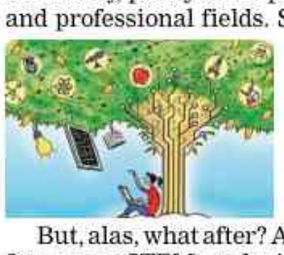
Can India do it with its admittedly scarcer resources? In 1920, Indian scientist Upendranath Brahmachari, working by the light of a kerosene lamp at night, invented urea stibamine, which raised the survival rate of kala-azar patients from 10% to 90%. So, the capability of Indian scientists is not in doubt. Regulatory aid – like the 2005 amendment – can help.

Where Are Their Seniors?

More women in STEM is great news. But policy has to look at why most of them don't make it to the top

That over 10,000 girls have cracked JEE Advanced exam to study in IITs, NITs or IIITs, is no ordinary milestone. It demonstrates – more than any hifalutin platitudes – the impact of policy in helping youngsters realise their potential. The policy, here, is the IITs' supernumerary seats for girls, a scheme started from 2018. A seat allocation authority increased the proportion of women students in premier engineering colleges by 20%, as a leg-up to correct a traditional gender skew across premier engineering colleges. Seats were increased proportionately across disciplines; existing seats left as is – a gender-neutral bloc.

The outcome of the push is evident. More women have made the cut. Most importantly, women who entered via the supernumerary seats scheme, graduated with GPAs at par with men. Such performance has silenced critics, the tendency always to berate and view with animosity, policy attempts to correct gender ratios in educational and professional fields. So, it seems that India could soon have a robust pipeline of women engineers too, across fields. Women signing up for STEM fields has grown slowly, but steadily. In 2024, UGC boasted that the number of women STEM doctorates had gone up "by 107% in the last 10 years". Currently, 42% of STEM graduates are women.



But, alas, what after? An E&Y 2026 study showed the grim reality for women STEM grads. Almost 30% of entry-level STEM employees are women, but their number crashes to 18% at director level, which dwindles to 12%-14% at VP and C-level positions. Another study showed women STEM grads hold a mere 17% faculty positions. Why? It is brutal how societal expectations (marriage break, childbearing, elder care) and male-dominated workplace cultures (motherhood as penalty, inflexible workhours, unfair promotion practices), see highly qualified women scientists and researchers simply fall off the map, finding little support from either family or profession, to return to their STEM career, which is ever-challenging, and demands both time and commitment. So, for the 10,000 women who this year enter premier engineering and R&D set-ups, what's the plan? Only policy can ensure this highly qualified workforce isn't lost, simply because the workplace couldn't accommodate women.

A drink you eat

Invented in 18th century, bicerin is a specialty of Turin

Jug Suraiya

It's a unique drink in that you eat it. It's bicerin (bich to rhyme with rich, and reen) and was invented in 18th-century Turin, which was once the centre for the production of Fiat cars. Torino means Little Bull, and Turin has always been bullish on innovation, be it cars or comestibles.

Bicerin means 'small glass' and was made in its first avatar in 1763, a drink made of coffee, chocolate, milk, and syrup, called bavareisa.

Giuseppe Dentis founded a café fronting the Sanctuario della Consolata, one of the loveliest of Turin's many beautiful churches and an important pilgrimage centre.

Originally, Giuseppe's customers were served the ingredients separately and did their own mixing on a DIY basis. Subsequently, as a labour-saving variant, the Caffé offered a ready-mixed concoction in which espresso, thick hot chocolate, and frothy cream were served in a small glass called a bicerin, and Bicerin was officially launched as a brand name that also became the name of Giuseppe's café.

Bicerin, which soon became the talk of the town, was served in a glass without a handle because the glutinous mixture was so densely textured that it was best spooned out and eaten layer by layer, in a culinary version of a geological excavation.

secondopinion

Among the many notable patrons of Caffé Bicerin was Camillo Paolo Filippo Giulio Benso, Count of Cavour, who for the sake of brevity was often shortened to Cavour, the 19th-century Turin-born national hero, one of the architects of united Italy, and its first prime minister.

It's remarkable that Cavour managed to unify Italy and pursue an illustrious political career, considering he seems to have spent most of his time enjoying bicerin in the myriad Caffé al Bicerin clones that mushroomed all over Turin, many claiming the patronage of the great patriot.

You don't have to go to a Cavour-endorsed café to sample a bicerin. You can make your own. In a small clear glass, put a double shot of espresso, pour the melted chocolate onto the hot coffee, top with chilled whipped cream. Enjoy your edible drink, spoon by spoon. Buon appetito.

Prime Ministers & Their Pros

India always produced something great when a PM backed professionals who did the crucial work. In Modi's time, examples include India Stack & welfare delivery at scale. India again needs new ideas. Modi, who has immense political capital, should induct talent at the top of govt

Rohit Lamba

Economist, Cornell University

In a small office in South Block, in the summer of 1948, a Cambridge-trained physicist told India's prime minister that the new country needed an atomic energy programme, and that the Indian Civil Service, designed for revenue collection and famine relief, could not run one. Nehru had nothing to gain politically from agreeing. He agreed anyway. The Atomic Energy Commission was placed under his own office. Homi Bhabha was given a room, and political cover to use it. That decision arguably shaped Indian scientific capability for decades.

Every leader assembling a govt faces the question Nehru faced. Loyalty or competence. Loyalty buys obedience, competence buys judgement. Loyalty serves tenure, competence serves legacy. And yet a distinction is worth holding. Once a decision is made, ministers carry the cabinet's line, and bureaucrats implement policy. That kind of loyalty is essential. What corrupts a council is the other kind. Loyalty as the price of entry, the demand to agree in advance to enter the room of judgement. The first is governance. The second is courtly rule.

India has chosen well more often than it has been given credit for. Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi gave C Subramaniam the space to back MS Swaminathan, and the country learned to feed itself through the Green Revolution. Vikram Sarabhai persuaded Nehru to lodge space research inside Bhabha's department, and built a programme that rivals the world's best at a fraction of the cost. Indira and Rajiv Gandhi brought in Sam Pitroda, over the resistance of an entrenched telecom establishment, and the telephone revolution followed.

Most far-reaching of all, Narasimha Rao, running a minority govt, gave Manmohan Singh and a small group of economists the authority to design the 1991 reforms. Rao absorbed the political risk, they wrote the policy. Vajpayee did the same with Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie, and with the engineers of the Golden Quadrilateral. Manmohan Singh, as PM, gave Nandan Nilekani cabinet rank to build Aadhaar against political and bureaucratic opposition. Modi did the same, by backing the extension of the India Stack and welfare delivery, at a scale few thought possible. Different parties, the same practice. When India has done anything world-class, a politician built a room for an expert, and stood at the door.

Choosing for competence in India is a real design challenge. First-past-the-post elections reward coalition-builders across caste, region, community, rather than policy designers. BJP under Modi has assembled one of the most formidable political coalitions in modern India. Opposition is fragmented. Electoral success is the test the system measures, and few have passed it more emphatically.

But the questions that remain to be answered are different. They are economic and institutional, and they cannot be answered by the same instrument that won the political question. Rupee is at a generational low. Foreign investors have pulled out more than $20bn this year. Growth forecasts have been revised down, and public communication on the economy isn't at its best. There is a structural problem here that no electoral capital can disguise. The talent the country needs at the top of economic policy is not in the room.

The same pattern is visible elsewhere. The national medical entrance exam has been compromised twice in three years, and this May's cancellation has left 22L students in limbo. In the same month, CBSE rolled out a new on-screen marking system, and 18L Class 12 students saw scores fall below what their preparation predicted. Two parallel failures, one shared cause: Institutions running these exams have not been built or rebuilt for the scale and stakes they now carry.

In Oslo last month, when a Norwegian reporter asked a senior Indian diplomat a difficult question about rights, the answer was a rehearsed civilisational defence rather than substantive engagement. Operation Sindoor may have achieved its military objectives, but the public information effort did not match the professionalism of the armed forces.

The IndiaAI Mission spent a fraction of last year's budget and has had this year's halved. Data centres are being built that may host foreign models, while India's own AI capability is starved of the talent that could build it. Semiconductor foundries are delayed. The design talent India already has, is chipping away at foreign firms.

The cost of choosing loyalty over competence is paid slowly, and then all at once. Rupee falls quietly for years, before anyone calls it a crisis. Universities decline through small compromises, before the country finds it has lost a generation. AI looks like a bus we can still catch, until the moment we cannot.

The configuration is not unique to one party. State govts in Punjab now and in Bengal until recently, have shown how loyalty crowds out competence in opposition rule too. But the Centre answers for the rupee, the universities, conduct of diplomacy, architecture of technology, and the country's response to a war. When GOI falls short, no state can offset the cost.

Our epics have always known this. Mahabharat is, among many other things, the story of a king who had Vidur in the next room, and chose to listen to Shakuni. Vidur spoke and Bhishm spoke. The king heard them both, and preferred the flatterer. The kingdom did not survive that preference.

Modi is at the height of his political power, with three years until the next election. He has earned more freedom to choose competence over loyalty than any prime minister since Nehru. Nehru used that freedom. Rao used it under far harder constraints. Vajpayee used it with elegance. The country has never been short on capable people. The door is Modi's to open.

Watching World Cup: Football's The Same. We Have Changed

When grainy images on non-smart TVs were our window to the matches, we were sports watchers, we didn't mind staying up late. Now, we are just sports consumers. We can take it or leave it

Siddharth.Saxena@timesofindia.com

Just the other day, as fate still hung over whether India would watch this World Cup or not, a couple of us old colleagues – proud, foolish sports nuts, and football tragics – furiously engaged in debate over a useless piece of information from 40 years ago.

Which was that World Cup match from Mexico'86 that Doordarshan first broadcast to us live, symbolically setting in motion a culture, somewhat entitled, of watching football and all sports beamed to us here?

With the month-long World Cup in 1986 into its second day, someone insisted it was Brazil's 1-0 win over Spain, because he remembers shutting off the Bangladesh booster before the game. With our neighbours arguably more organically football woke than India can ever be – remember how the Bangladeshi expat population in Qatar simply appropriated Argentinian affections from under Indian noses four years ago – Bangladesh had begun their live telecast with minimum fuss, while India was still debating it in Parliament.

One was sure it wasn't the game in question, simply because one doesn't remember watching it, and one had watched everything Mexico threw at us, including Bulgaria in all their inert splendour. But then, nostalgia can be such a mirage.

One remembers, though, reading about it later, poring over newspaper reports that Spain were denied a genuine goal when the ball bounced past Carlos' goal line and back into play, and how Socrates scored Brazil's winner from an offside position – a most inelegant header from football's most elegant artiste. And how all of it was so un-Brazilian.

Back then, you read more than you watched. And with those despatches, you got an early lesson in how football may be beautiful. But beauty is so much tougher. Something told you that Brazil would come up short, because of the first match that invaded the consciousness that midsummer's week four decades ago and has stayed since, like the gecko in summer. Italy vs Argentina, its grainy images in that rarefied late afternoon heat, static-ridden commentary echoing into the Indian summer night, all of it burnt into a watching 14-year-old's mind for all time.

The defending champions, slow, ponderous, surely not the same guys who dismantled Brazil's ethos in 1982, but still so resplendent in their regal blue jerseys, were up against a stocky team of challengers who seemed to look to their pocket-sized leader for everything, and who, in turn, did everything with his left foot. Everything.

Today, young Lamine Yamal is all left foot. Bewitching. Outside of, outstep – first touch, collect, pass, score. So rare, so much time, minimal backlift. How unique is that in today's game, or even an old world one? But once there was the original. And this is not even Messi we are talking about.

Maradona would score the first of his five goals in Mexico that night, a strike of such quiet deception and guile, so unannounced that the watching world scarcely registered it. It just came and went, his most underrated, least-talked-of strike in a devastating array of cockiness and impact that would follow. Nothing that has come after – or before – has ever been equal.

Back in that summer of '86, when the whole of India was still scarred by Javed Miandad's six at Sharjah only weeks earlier, an entire collective refusing to recover from what would shape our sporting psyche for a good couple of decades, so many of us spent sleepless nights, more worried if we would get to see the World Cup at all. That is why the long-running impasse over India's broadcast rights for this World Cup carried a similar echo. And it made you realise, as you waited, that a whole lot had changed, a whole new unfamiliar world had taken shape.

When sports telecast rights become chiefly about the bottom line, interest dependent on match hours and subsequent advertising slots, it tells you how hollow our fandom is. We prop up sports, our athletes, invoke the fans, but only do so with an eye on the returns. We are very vocal about being avid sports watchers, reeling off scores, systems and stats, but we have shown up more as sports consumers than supporters. In sports-evolved societies, sports watching is an almost religious activity, being denied of it invites outrage and protest. In India, we simply switch the channel.

You know you inhabit a different, colder reality when even Prasar Bharti tells the courts that they are not morally obligated to bail out the Indian football fan. When we didn't have a stake, or a say, remember, India always watched football and international sport in the wee hours of the night and were happier for it.

Soon, in a week, it will be the same stage from where Roberto Baggio was blasting his final penalty against Brazil into the Los Angeles skies. In 1994 back then, India was a country, awakening without sleep, the TV's images merging into dawn and life returning to everyday normalcy. If it was alright then, what changed now? It was, and still is, football, somewhere still, the people's game.

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacredspace

Every person needs to take one day away. A day in which one consciously separates past from future. Jobs, family, employers, and friends can exist one day without any one of us, and if our egos permit us to confess, they could exist eternally in our absence.

Maya Angelou

Even Victors Find No Joy In Aftermath Of War

Jwalant Swaroop

Spiritual traditions have long viewed humanity as participants in a shared field of consciousness. When violence erupts on a massive scale, that collective field is disturbed. Ancient Indian thought described this disruption as adharm, a disturbance in the moral and cosmic balance of existence. Violent acts affect not only societies and nations but also the subtle psychological fabric of civilisation.

Modern psychology now describes this as collective trauma. Societies often carry emotional scars for generations. Fear, instability, hatred, and moral confusion continue long after the battlefield falls silent. Trauma spreads outward like ripples in water, shaping cultures and future conflicts, leaving behind psychological debris for centuries to clear it.

Mahabharat remains one of humanity's deepest reflections on the spiritual consequences of war. The battle of Kurukshetra was not merely a political struggle but a catastrophic confrontation between dharm and adharm. Millions perished, families disappeared, and the social order collapsed. Yet even the victors found no joy.

Yudhishthir, crowned king after the war, was overwhelmed with grief and guilt. The triumph of righteousness could not erase the suffering caused by destruction of teachers, friends, and relatives. Victory felt hollow because it came at the cost of humanity. The epic repeatedly reminds us that war leaves wounds deeper than physical destruction.

THE SPEAKING TREE

One of the most symbolic aspects of Mahabharat's aftermath is Krishn's withdrawal to Dwarka. Though he guided Pandavs and delivered Gita, he moved away from Kurukshetra after the war. Dwarka represented distance from the psychic residue of violence and a place where civilisation could rebuild itself.

Ancient traditions believed that land absorbs human emotions and actions. Sacred places are created through meditation and prayer, while battlefields become saturated with suffering and death.

Yet the Mahabharat does not completely reject war. Krishn repeatedly attempted diplomacy and compromise before the conflict began. Even five villages for the Pandavs could have prevented destruction. But when injustice refuses to yield, conflict sometimes becomes unavoidable.

War, therefore, is portrayed as a tragic last resort required to restore moral order.

Centuries later, the Buddha taught that wars begin in the human mind long before they appear on battlefields. His famous insight remains timeless: "Hatred does not cease by hatred; hatred ceases only by love."

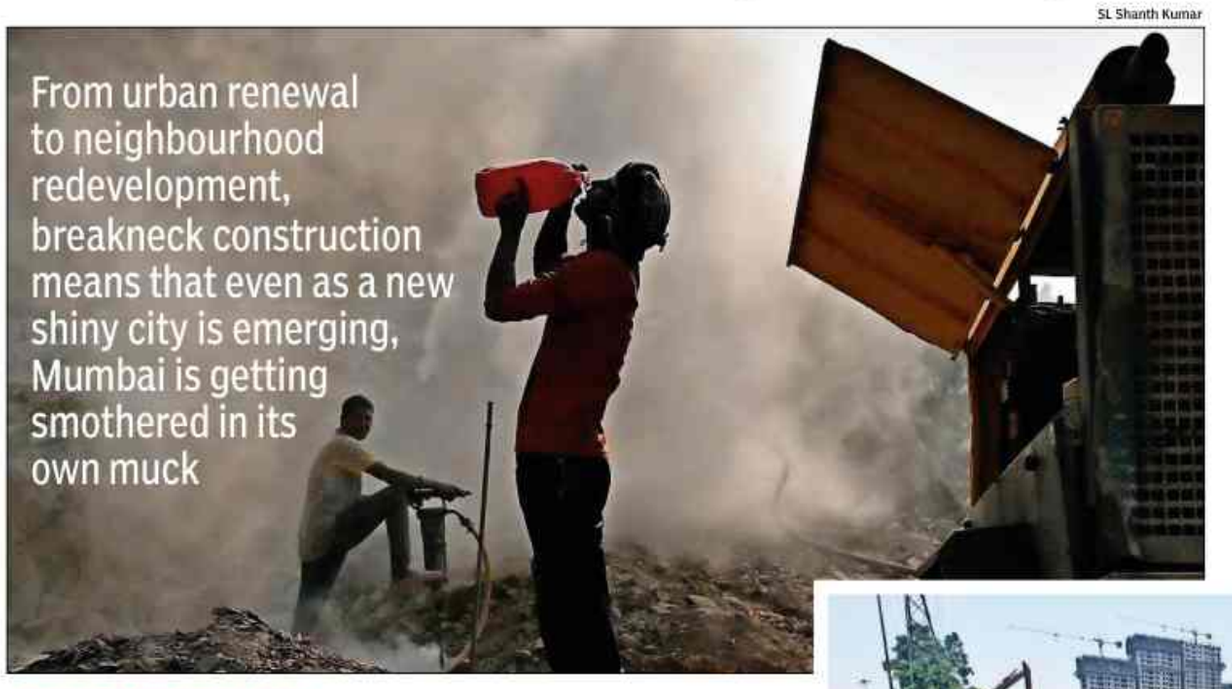
Mahabharat and the Buddha together reveal a profound truth. External force may occasionally become necessary to resist injustice, yet lasting peace cannot arise without inner transformation.

The real battlefield, therefore, exists both outside and within the human mind. Civilisations heal slowly after war. Art, philosophy, spirituality, and reflection emerge as attempts to process collective grief. In this sense, Mahabharat can be seen as a warning and not as a celebration of violence. Its ultimate message is clear: true victory does not lie in destroying enemies but in restoring balance, compassion, and wisdom.

Mumbai's Malba Hill: A city with more debris than garbage

Bhavika.Jain@timesofindia.com

SL Shanth Kumar



Mumbai's construction boom now leaves behind a bigger daily pile of rubble than the city's household garbage. The civic body estimates that, every day, Mumbai generates about 8,000 metric tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste—*malba* in Hindi — against roughly 7,000 metric tonnes of municipal waste, a stark measure of how intensely the city is being pulled down, dug up and rebuilt.

Across Mumbai, old housing societies are being brought down, cranes hover above redevelopment sites, and infrastructure projects cut through neighbourhoods already thick with construction dust.

Mumbai has always lived with construction. What is different now is that it is happening all at once: private redevelopment, state-led housing, road concreting, bridges, coastal infrastructure and neighbourhood repairs. The city's skyline is rising, but so is the mountain of debris.

Until 2019-20, officials say, construction debris was counted within Mumbai's broader solid-waste stream. Once it began to be classified separately, the scale of the problem became clearer.

That same period saw C&D waste peak at around 11,000 metric tonnes a day, driven largely by underground excavation for big-ticket projects such as the Metro Railway and the Mumbai Coastal Road.

While Mumbai has spent decades building systems to collect and dispose of household waste, its infrastructure for handling construction debris remains thin, fragmented and tough to monitor. For years, officials and environmentalists say, a large share of this rubble has travelled beyond city limits, often dumped illegally.

Mumbai's Redevelopment Boom

Mumbai's construction surge is no longer limited to a handful of infrastructure projects. Civic officials say the revised Development Control and Promotion Regulation rules allow higher Floor Space Index (FSI), which means more buildings are being redeveloped into taller, denser towers. That also means more demolitions, deeper foundations and more debris.

"There is also a shortage of parking lots and so most buildings are going for basement parking lots, which is leading to increased excavation," said Kiran Dighavkar, BMC deputy commissioner for solid waste management.

Large-scale infrastructure works — from metro lines and bridges to massive redevelopment projects such as Dharavi — have added to the burden. So has smaller private work: interior redesigns, repairs, renovations and extensions.

"People are now also going for large-scale interior work and a lot of minor, internal repairs are being taken more frequently. All of this has added to the challenge of managing construction waste," said Dighavkar. "It's a very unique urban problem that our construction waste is higher than the garbage that the city produces, and we don't have any solution for it as of now," said Dighavkar.

Mumbai currently relies on two recycling centres for processing debris — one in Dahisar and another in Kalyan/Shilphata, outside Mumbai. Each plant has a capacity of about 600 metric tonnes per day, giving the city a combined formal processing capacity of around 1,200 tonnes a day. That is only about 15% of the debris Mumbai generates daily.

That leaves the obvious question: where is the remaining 85% going?

Officials and activists say private transporters often collect debris from construction sites for a fee and dump it wherever they can — on deserted roadsides, mangroves and open grounds, where the pile becomes somebody else's problem. For decades, satellite towns such as Thane, Navi Mumbai and Kalyan were among the favourite dumping grounds. Many local bodies there have now begun measures to stop illegal dumping.

ONLY A FRACTION DISPOSED OF PROPERLY

7,000 MT Approximate daily municipal garbage generation

8,000 MT Estimated C&D waste generated daily in Mumbai

1,200 MT Current combined capacity of Mumbai's two C&D processing plants

15% | Share of daily debris the formal system can process

Where Oversight Weakens

For small generators — home renovations, minor repairs and interior work — officials say the civic body's "debris-on-call" system offers a formal route. But the larger problem lies with bulk waste moved through private arrangements.

A contractor may remove debris from a construction site. A truck may leave with paperwork. A developer may say the waste has been sent for proper disposal. But without end-to-end tracking, authorities often cannot say with certainty whether the debris reached an authorised facility, was reused legitimately, or was dumped illegally.

This concern over illegal dumping had also prompted Bombay high court to take suo motu cognisance of Mumbai's worsening air quality and constitute a high-powered committee to examine solutions. The BMC's new concept plan has emerged in this wider context of judicial pressure and public concern over dust pollution.

The civic body's own planning note acknowledges familiar gaps: fragmented digital systems, limited vehicle tracking, illegal dumping and the absence of real-time monitoring. In effect, Mumbai has been trying to manage a 21st-century construction economy with 20th-century waste oversight.

The Environmental Cost

Mumbai's debris problem is also about land, water and air. In 2008, when the Deonar dumping ground started experiencing frequent fires, environmentalist Rajkumar Sharma filed a PIL in Bombay HC. The court banned new construction in the city as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation was not following rules for waste disposal. Sharma said one consequence was that debris began moving towards wetlands near Vasai and Thane creeks.

"Entities that had for long looked to get permission to develop the wetlands for real estate were lining up to get their land declared official C&D waste disposal sites," said Irfan Sheikh, an environmentalist.

Their only interest: once these wetlands were smothered with debris, a builder could move the municipal body to allow construction on it. Environmentalists say debris dumping can slowly alter fragile landscapes. It can choke natural drainage, raise land levels, smother mangrove and wetland ecosystems, and make later encroachment easier.

"There is rampant dumping of debris in wetlands, mangroves and creeks. Dumping of debris works like slow poison, debris is dumped for months and then the land is reclaimed and illegal construction starts on it. Debris management on paper is perfect but on ground it has failed terribly," said Dharmesh Barai, founder of the Environment Life Foundation, who has conducted mangrove clean-ups for 300 weeks.

The health concern is also serious. Construction dust is not merely a nuisance for residents living next to redevelopment sites. Repeated exposure can worsen respiratory illness and increase risks for people with asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) or heart disease. The risk is higher for construction workers, waste handlers, traffic police, street vendors, children, the elderly and people with existing respiratory or cardiac conditions.

Consultant pulmonologist and epidemiologist Dr Lancelot Pinto added that exposure to construction dust is also linked to cerebrovascular disease, respiratory infections, asthma, cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disorders and cancers. "It can also cause skin symptoms and other health complications," he added.

Not Mumbai's Problem Alone

Mumbai's debris crisis is part of a wider Indian urban problem. India is experiencing one of the world's largest construction booms. Highways, metros, airports, housing schemes, commercial towers are reshaping cities at speed.

But waste systems have not kept pace. Official estimates vary widely, reflecting the lack of robust nationwide tracking. Studies suggest that India generates anywhere between 150 million and 500 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste annually. Bengaluru generates about 6,000 tonnes of C&D waste daily, while its two processing plants currently handle 1,750 tonnes a day. Delhi, by contrast, produces about 6,000 tonnes of C&D waste daily, processes around 5,000 tonnes through four recycling facilities, and is expanding capacity while rolling out its Malba portal for traceability.

Global Learnings

Cities across the world have discovered that rapid construction creates a second, less visible city — one made of rubble. Decades back, Hong Kong addressed this using disposal charges, segregation rules, monitoring systems and reuse of inert material. Beijing's challenge has been scale, with debris moving from dense urban cores to suburban processing and dumping zones. Dubai's building boom, too, pushed authorities towards digital transfer systems, GPS-enabled monitoring and tighter compliance checks. The common lesson is not that these cities eliminated construction waste. They made it visible, traceable and harder to dump illegally.

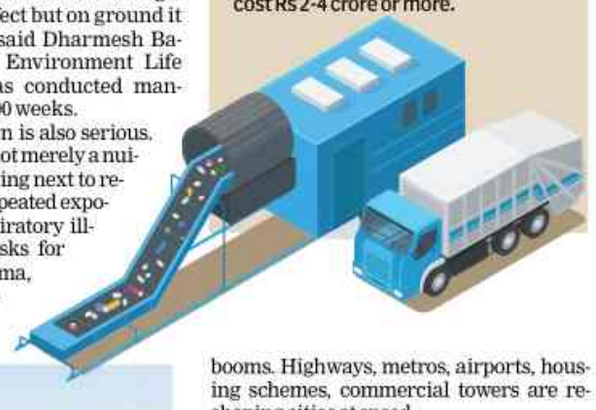
Dust and debris from construction sites pose a growing health risk for Mumbaikars while the lack of mechanisms for proper disposal means building waste often ends up in lakes and water bodies

HOW C&D WASTE IS PROCESSED

Construction and demolition (C&D) waste is processed through a circular-economy model involving collection, segregation, crushing and material recovery. Much of the debris is recycled into aggregates, paver blocks and concrete.

The waste is first segregated into wood, metal, plastic and inert rubble. Structural waste such as concrete, asphalt and masonry is then crushed and screened into usable fragments. Recovered material is reused in roads, pavements and fill material, reducing dependence on fresh raw materials.

A basic 50-tonne-per-hour recycling plant costs around Rs 1-1.5 crore, while larger automated facilities can cost Rs 2-4 crore or more.



GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Chief Commissioner, N.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560002.

No:GBA/MP/PR/365/2026-27 Date:01.06.2026

Global tender for selection of Agency to provide consultancy services for "Preparation of GIS based Master Plan for Greater Bengaluru Local Planning Area"

SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through E-Procurement only)

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) intends to prepare GIS based Master Plan for Greater Bengaluru Local Planning Area and proposes to engage the services of an Agency for the same which shall be selected through e-tender process.

Tender document containing details of eligibility criteria, scope of work and other terms and conditions may be obtained from the website of e-procurement Department, Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of tenders at **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** is **20-06-2026 at 5.30 p.m.** Greater Bengaluru Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

E-Mail Address:gba.masterplan@gmail.com

Sd/-
Additional Chief Town Planner, Greater Bengaluru Authority, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Grameenabhivriddhi Bhavana, 4th & 5th Floor, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

No: KRIDL/ACT/TND/FD/2026-27 Date: 01.06.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

KRIDL invites tenders through e-bidding from Public Sector Banks/ Regional Rural Banks/Private Sector banks for **Investment of about Rs. 750.00 crore in Fixed deposit for a period of one year.** Other terms and conditions may be viewed on e-Procurement portal. Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in e-Proc Helpdesk Contact:** 9240214000, 9240214001.

- Date of Publishing of e-Auction Notification: **02.06.2026**
- Last date for submission of bid is on **09.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs.**
- Date of Opening of Technical Bid is on **11.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs.**
- Date of Opening e-Auction is on **16.06.2026, 10.30 AM to 3.00 PM**

For further details please contact:
Chief Finance Officer
KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LTD, Bengaluru-09. Phone: 080-28015609 Email: cfo-1@kridl.net
Sd/- Chief Finance Officer

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, E-Mail-edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in

Ref. No. : F-8( ) RMSC/EPM/M-4/NIB-933/2025-26/237 Dated :- 25/05/2026

CORRIGENDUM / ADDENDUM

Bid for item:
1. Deep Freezer, Fowler Bed, Stead Bed, Foot Step, Syringe Infusion Pump, Glucostrip & Pulse Oxymeter (Handheld),
2. White Box (Sharp Container), & Transport Trolley (Wheel Barrow) Reserve for MSE, Rajasthan Only

are invited from interested bidders up to Date : 18.06.2026 : 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.dipronline.org** or **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or website **http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in.**

UBN : MSC2526GLOB00056

Executive Director (EPM)
Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation

Raj.Samwad/C/26/3853

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 18/2026 Date: 29.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
01	30261492	Hanger for bogie bolster suspension	8120 Nos.	**10.06.2026**
02	29265015A	IGBT based 3-Phase Drive Propulsion Equipment	2 Nos.	**18.06.2026**
03	29261012A	Secondary Spring	77 Nos.	**19.06.2026**
04	37261168	Face Plate for Buffer plunger	2536 Nos.	**22.06.2026**
05	45251272A	Jumper plug assembly with cable suitable for inter vehicular coupler	234 Nos.	**01.07.2026**
06	30261100	Axle Box Housing Finished	1416 Nos.	**06.07.2026**
07	45261289A	Supply of Low Maintenance Starter Lead Acid Battery capacity 8V, 290AH.	179 Sets	**07.07.2026**

For **Tender No. 33261018 of Notice No. 15/2026,** the Due Date for opening of tender changed from **22.06.2026 to 29.07.2026.**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi

PUB/180/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079,
Phone: +91-80-29619801, Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com

No: KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/NHM-NFDS/15th FC/RDK KITS/ RETND/03/2026-27, Date: 02.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: Tender Notification No:
1. **KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/NHM-NFDS/15thFC/RDK KITS/ RETND/03/2026-27(IND-0263 Call 2) Date: 26.05.2026.**
2. **KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/GH/GLUCOSTRIP/RETND/04/ 2026-27 (IND-0305- Call 02) Date: 26.05.2026.**
3. **KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/GH/GLUCOSTRIP/RETND/05/ 2026-27 (IND-0306 Call 02) Date: 26.05.2026**
4. **KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/OH/DU/TND/06/2026-27 (IND-0399) Date: 26.05.2026**
5. **KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/NPCB&VI/TND/07/2025-26 (IND-0400) Date: 26.05.2026.**
6. **KSMSCL/HFW/MH/PRGM/FCM-INJ/DRUGS/TND/09/ 2026-27 (IND-0401).**

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:
1. **RE-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF RAPID DIAGNOSTIC KITS UNDER NHM-NFDS PROGRAMME BY UTILIZING 15TH FINANCE COMMISSION GRANTS (IND- 0263 Call 2)**
2. **RE-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF STRIPS LANCETS FOR BLOOD GLUCOSE TESTING UNDER GRUHA AROGYA PROJECT (IND- 0305 Call 2)**
3. **RE-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF STRIPS LANCETS FOR BLOOD GLUCOSE TESTING UNDER GRUHA AROGYA PROJECT (IND- 0306 Call 2)**
4. **TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF DENTAL UNITS UNDER ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMME (IND-0399)**
5. **TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF OPHTHALMIC EQUIPMENT UNDER NPCB&VI PROGRAMME ASSURANCE PROGRAMME (IND-0400)**
6. **TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF FERRIC CARBOXYMALTOSE INJ UNDER MATERNAL HEALTH PROGRAM (IND-0401)**

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under KPP platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- General Manager (A&P)
KSMSCL, Benglauru.

DIPR/CP/RO949/AAPL/2026-27

KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Grameenabhivriddhi Bhavana, 4th & 5th Floor, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

No: KRIDL/ACT/TND/FD/2026-27 Date: 01.06.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

KRIDL invites tenders through e-bidding from Public Sector Banks/ Regional Rural Banks/Private Sector banks for **Investment of about Rs.400.00 crore in Fixed deposit for a period of 180 days Callable and Rs.400.00 crore in Fixed deposit for a period of 180 days Non Callable.** Other terms and conditions may be viewed on e-Procurement portal. Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in e-Proc Helpdesk Contact:** 9240214000, 9240214001.

- Date of Publishing of e-Auction Notification: **02.06.2026**
- Last date for submission of bid is on **09.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs.**
- Date of Opening of Technical Bid is on **11.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs.**
- Date of Opening e-Auction is on **16.06.2026, 10.30 AM to 3.00 PM**

For further details please contact:
Chief Finance Officer
KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LTD, Bengaluru-09. Phone: 080-28015609 Email: cfo-1@kridl.net
Sd/- Chief Finance Officer

INNOVATE KARNATAKA | K-tech

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Tender No.: ITBTST/2026-27/SE0049

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T intends to select a Strategic Consultancy Services for attract GCCs, IT / ITeS, Investments to Karnataka. In this regard, KITS invites RFP from the eligible Strategic Consultancy Companies.

Any notices/information related to this RFP in the future shall be available on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only.

The deadline for submission is **on or before 02.07.2026 by 4.00 P.M.** Refer to the RFP document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231008
E-mail: gmit.kits@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/937/AKAR/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagara Zone,
BBMP Office Building, CA No-3,
1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru - 560 060

No: EE/KEN/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 02-06-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover System) (Call-1)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, Zone-1, invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BWCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains at Ward No-11 Doddabidarakallu Ward and Surrounding Area **Approximate Value of Amount put to tender: ₹.199.74 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,000/-**
2.	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains at Ward No-12 Andrahalli Ward and Surrounding Area **Approximate Value of Amount put to tender: ₹.199.74 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,000/-**
3.	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains at Ward No-13 Nadaprabhu Kempegowdanagara Ward and Surrounding Area **App. Value of Amount put to tender: ₹.199.76 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,000/-**
4.	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains at Ward No-14 Herohalli Ward and Surrounding Area **Approximate Value of Amount put to tender: ₹.199.73 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,000/-**
5.	Improvements of Roads and Drains at Marappa Badavane, Mini Gandhinagara near Akkipikki Colony and Surrounding areas in Ward No-18 Kengal Hanumanthaiah West. **Approximate Value of Amount put to tender: ₹.200.09 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,500/-**
6.	Improvements of Roads and Drains at Gandhinagara (From New Tank Bund to 2nd Main) and surrounding areas in Ward No-18 Kengal Hanumanthaiah West **Approximate Value of Amount put to tender: ₹.200.15 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,500/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents can be downloaded through e-portal from **03-06-2026**, **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid meeting on **08-06-2026** at **3:00** pm O/o Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeswari Nagar Zone, Bengaluru - 98. (3) Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders on **17-06-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Bids on **18-06-2026** upto **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Kengeri Division, BWCC, Zone-1

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.- EPC-2026-27-01 **Date- 27.05.2026**

E-Tender Notice

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const./North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to **15.00** hrs. on **27.08.2026.** The details of the tenders are as under: -

S.N.1. Tender No.: EPC-2026-27-01

Name of work: Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for third line track between Manikpur (excluding) to Bargarh (including) (Ch: 1257.180 to 1297.000) including Electrification & Signaling works along with construction of ROB on LC No. 404/C2, 406/2T & 407/2E in connection with Manikpur-Iradatganj 3rd line project of North Central Railway.

Approx Cost of work: ₹ 620.86 Cr. (approx.) | **Bid Security:** ₹ 12,41,71,800/-

Completion Period: 24 months | **Type of tendering:** Open (Two Packet System)

Tender Closing Date & Time: 27.08.2026 15.00 hrs.

Date of Opening of tender: 27.08.2026 15.30 hrs.

Note: - 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website **www.ireps.gov.in** up to 15.00 hrs on the due date of tender opening i.e. **27.08.2026. 2.** Bids other than in the form of E-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. **3.** The Bid Security shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per format in favour of **FA & CAO/C/NCR/PRYJ** as given in Tender Document and shall be valid for a period of **90 days beyond the bid validity period. 4.** Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. **5.** Joint Venture (JV)/Consortiums/MOUs shall be considered for the tender having cost more than 10 Cr. **6.** Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. **7.** The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document in standard format for all items without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. **8.** Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). Only those documents which are declared explicitly by the tenderer as "documents supporting the claim qualifying the laid down eligibility criteria", will be considered for evaluation his/their tender. In case of any wrong information submitted by the tenderer, the contract will be terminated. Bid Security (BS), Performance Guarantee (PG and Security Deposit (SD) of contract will be forfeited and agency will be banned for doing business on entire Indian Railways for two (02) years. **9.** GST Act & rules issued from time to time by the Government authorities shall be applicable. **10.** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **11.** Tender online can be submitted up to **15.00** hrs. on **27.08.2026** and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. on same day.

1229/26 FA

North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

TIMES GLOBAL

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

FORGIVE MANY THINGS IN OTHERS; NOTHING IN YOURSELF — AUSONIUS

SYDNEY SWEENEY TOLD 'EUPHORIA' CREATOR NOT TO CUT NUDE SCENES FROM SEASON 3: 'I'M PLAYING AN ONLYFANS MODEL'

SABRINA CARPENTER SECURES RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST 'STALKER' WHO ALLEGEDLY TRIED TO ENTER HER HOME IN LA

The art of the heel: Trump makes more U-turns on Iran

Israel Defies US' Negotiations As Bibi Pushes Ahead With Lebanon Ops

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: One day US President Donald Trump declares that prolonged negotiations with Iran are "boring." The next day he predicts a breakthrough agreement "within a week." On another, he hints that military action remains very much on the table.

In between, according to an explosive new report by Axios, Trump unleashed a profanity-laced tirade at Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, warning him he was "f***ing crazy" to expand the war in Lebanon, and claiming: "You'd be in prison if it weren't for me. I'm saving your a**. Everybody hates you now. Everybody hates Israel because of this."

The result is a White House foreign policy that increasingly resembles improvisational theatre — dramatic, unpredictable, and leaving allies and adversaries alike struggling to discern whether there is a script at all. A growing number of foreign affairs pundits are now saying the administration has no clue where it is heading, even as it is bringing a wrecking ball to alliances and partnerships across the world.

The latest confusion erupted after Trump publicly claimed he had personally persuaded both Hezbollah and Israel to stop firing at each other, asserting, "I spoke with Hezbollah, and I said no shooting, and I talked to Bibi, and said, no shooting, and they both stopped shooting each other." Yet within hours Netanyahu publicly clapped back at Trump, saying, "If Hezbollah does not cease attacking our cities and citizens, Israel will attack terror targets in Beirut," and declaring that Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon would continue as planned.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

The contradictory messages highlighted a growing problem confronting the White House: America's closest ally, which according to many pundits pushed the US into a war against Iran, appears unwilling to tailor its military actions to Trump's diplomatic timetable.

The reported Trump-Netanyahu spat is now generating much brouhaha in Washington, where presidents have routinely vented privately about Israeli leaders while publicly maintaining unwavering support. Former President Joe Biden reportedly referred to Netanyahu as an "a*****e" in private conversations and was said to have angrily ended calls with him during the Gaza conflict, yet American military and diplomatic backing continued uninterrupted.

According to Iran experts, Tehran on its part is pursuing a familiar strategy: offering a limited interim understanding that relieves economic pressure while avoiding concessions on its own nuclear programme, much to Israel's chagrin. For Iran, time seems to be an ally; for Trump, it is becoming a trap despite his claim that he's in no hurry to make a deal.

Having joined Israel's military campaign against Iran earlier this year while simultaneously insisting he prefers a negotiated settlement, Trump now faces contradictory pressures. Any concessions risk inviting accusations that he has secured a weaker agreement than former President Obama. Yet failure to reach a deal raises the prospect of deeper military involvement in a conflict he promised would be short and decisive.

Critics argue the administration entered the confrontation without a viable endgame. Increasingly, that perception is spreading beyond Washington. At an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on Monday, Washington found itself unusually isolated. France, Britain, Russia, China and numerous non-permanent members called for de-escalation and criticised Israeli military operations in Lebanon. France's ambassador warned Israel was committing "a major strategic mistake," while Britain's representative described Israel's actions as "reckless and disproportionate." The US focused on blaming Iran and Hezbollah.

For decades Washington has portrayed itself as the indispensable stabilising power in the international system. But increasingly, analysts like Ian Bremmer and Jeffrey Sachs are warning that image is eroding rapidly, with growing concerns about America being viewed as a disruptive force rather than a stabilising power in the world.

Iran stops talking to mediators over Israel, say reports

Dubai: Iran stopped communicating with mediators about extending a ceasefire in the war with the US and Israel, two semi-official Iranian news agencies reported Tuesday, as tensions flared in Israel's separate but related fight against the Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The halt in communication was likely meant to increase pressure on President Trump to potentially push PM Netanyahu to halt or slow the advance of his forces in Lebanon. The reports by the Fars and Tasnim news agencies, both believed to be close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, come as the conflicts in Iran and Lebanon have increasingly become conjoined. A regional official involved in the mediation, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AP that Iran had not communicated at all on Tuesday after saying that a ceasefire needed to be enforced in Lebanon for negotiations to continue. Israel and the US maintain the fighting in Lebanon is separate from the Iran war talks. AP

Israel kills 8 in Lebanon strikes

Beirut: Israeli drone strikes on southern Lebanon on Tuesday killed eight people, including two children and their father, a day after President Trump said Israel and the militant group Hezbollah agreed to dial back fighting. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, continued launching dozens of projectiles and drones toward Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon and civilians in Israel. Another round of talks between Israel and Lebanon began Tuesday in Washington, where Lebanese negotiators are set to seek a full ceasefire that will prevent future attacks. AP

Russia attacks cities in Ukraine using drones and missiles, 22 killed

Kyiv: Russia launched hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles against Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities overnight, killing at least 22 civilians and wounding 138 others, authorities said on Tuesday.

President Putin has escalated Moscow's aerial campaign in recent weeks in an apparent bid to take advantage of Ukraine's shortage of US-made air defence systems and persuade an increasingly pessimistic audience at home that Moscow is prevailing in the war.

Emergency rescue crews digging through the wreckage of apartment buildings pulled out the bodies of a 3-year-old child as well as those of a woman and her 8-year-old son in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro, officials said. The attack stretched past dawn, with explosions reverberating across cities. Officials said 16 people were killed in Dnipro and six in Kyiv.

Residents of the capital have been on edge for days after Russia warned last week that a massive aerial attack was coming and told foreign diplomats to leave. None appeared to heed the call and no embassies reported damage on Tuesday.

Ukrainian President Zelensky appealed for more US and European support, describing the massive overnight attack as "an explicit statement by Russia: If Ukraine is not protected from ballistic missiles and other missile strikes, those strikes will continue."

Reuters

A resident at a site of a Russian strike in Kyiv on Tuesday

Ukraine's shortage of air defence systems, in part because of depleted US stocks from the Iran war, has left civilians especially vulnerable to ballistic missiles, even as Kyiv's defences stop most of Moscow's drones. Russia unleashed 73 missiles and 656 drones across Ukraine, according to the country's air force. Ukrainian air defences destroyed 40 missiles and 602 drones.

Russia's defence ministry said in a statement that Tuesday's bombardment struck military-industrial facilities in the Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Khmelnytskyi and Sumy regions. Ukraine said residential, energy and civilian infrastructure was struck but did not confirm or comment on damage to any military-related sites. AP

US prez signs order to vet AI models for nat'l security risks

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on oversight of artificial intelligence Tuesday, less than two weeks after postponing a White House ceremony over his concerns that a similar policy could dull America's technological edge.

The order establishes a framework for the federal govt to vet the national security risks of the most advanced AI systems for up to a month before their public release. Participation by AI developers would be voluntary, the order says. "Advanced AI capabilities make our Nation stronger, but also introduce new national security considerations that require coordinated action across executive departments and agencies," the order says.

It was not immediately clear to what extent the order differed from the one he declined to sign on May 21. The order says govt would have only 30 days to review an AI system, a shorter time frame than some in the industry were expecting. A longer time period might have been seen as too burdensome for a fast-moving and highly competitive industry.

Trump cancelled an Oval Office event with tech industry executives last month because he did not like what he saw in the earlier version of the order's text. "We're leading everybody, and I don't want to do anything that's going to get in the way of that lead," Trump told reporters at the time. AP

Green card applicants questioned on bypassing consular processing

Lubna Kably | TNN

Some USCIS officers have begun asking green-card applicants why they chose Adjustment of Status rather than consular processing abroad following the agency's controversial May 22 policy memo, according to immigration attorneys.

Attorneys told **TOI** that while field officers are questioning applicants on why they did not pursue immigrant visa processing in their home country, recently a few others are approving cases without reference to the memo. Another section of USCIS officers are holding back decision making, pending further clarity and guidance on the policy memo.

TOI had reported on May 24 that the memo rolled out by the Trump administration did not abolish AOS for holders of dual-intent visas such as H-1B and L visas. Instead, it created a more discretionary adjudication framework under which officers may require applicants to demonstrate why they merit adjustment of status from within the US.

Rajiv S Khanna, managing attorney at Immigration.com, had earlier cautioned that USCIS officers would expect applicants to present affirmative evidence supporting adjustment of status, including tax compliance, economic contributions, family ties, professional standing and other indicators of roots in the US.

Subsequently, New York Times quoted a DHS official as saying that the memo was not a blanket policy change and that individual immigration officers would determine whether an applicant should complete the green card process abroad rather than in the US. However, the memo remains in force, prompting immigration attorneys to help applicants prepare more comprehensive evidence files ahead of AOS interviews and possible requests for evidence .

Mitch Wexler, senior counsel at Fragomen, a global immigration law firm, said that AOS has always been discretionary as a matter of law, and the policy does not change the underlying eligibility requirements. EB-5 investors and employment-based applicants remain fully eligible to pursue AOS where they meet the statutory criteria.

"What has changed is the emphasis. USCIS is now directing officers to more explicitly evaluate whether an applicant merits a favourable exercise of discretion, including whether it is appropriate for the applicant to complete the process in US rather than abroad," he said.

For EB-5 investors, many of these positive factors are built into the programme itself, given its focus on capital investment and job creation. Similarly, H-1B professionals with established employment histories and long-term residence in the US may present strong equities under the framework.

Charles Kuck, founding partner at Kuck Baxter, said cases involving prior immigration violations, unlawful presence, unauthorised employment, criminal history or allegations of fraud could face heightened scrutiny. "Some applicants may receive requests for evidence seeking information on positive equities ," he said.

B'desh considers Malaysia, not China, for PM's 1st overseas visit

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: In a bid to avoid sending a geopolitical signal favouring either Beijing or New Delhi, Dhaka could drop China for Malaysia as the destination for PM **Tarique Rahman**'s first overseas visit after assuming office, said sources in Bangladesh's foreign ministry.

"A number of dates are under discussion. It is likely that PM will visit Malaysia from June 21-22 before he travels to Beijing," an official said, stressing his schedule is yet to be confirmed as "June 18 is also being considered". Earlier, Tarique was expected to travel to Beijing from June 20-26, despite a pending invitation from PM Narendra Modi and Bhutan initially being chosen as the destination of his first foreign tour.

In April, Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim had invited Tarique to visit Malaysia, with the Southeast Asian nation reaffirming its commitment to further strengthening cooperation across multiple sectors.People in the know said that if Malaysia is indeed Tarique's first bilateral overseas visit, it could to some extent help ease the pressure in India-Bangladesh relations, troubled since the ouster of PM Hasina.

Visiting Malaysia will strengthen ties between the countries which this year signed five MoUs , the official said, recalling PM Ibrahim was the first foreign leader to visit Bangladesh since Hasina's ouster as PM, sending out a clear message that Dhaka was not alone in its moment of transition.

British MPs hear horror testimonies of Pak-origin grooming gang survivors

Naomi Canton

London: British MPs assembled at Westminster Hall heard this Monday graphic testimonies of grooming-gang survivors describing trafficking, rape and torture at the hands of mostly Pakistani-origin men, forcing parliament to revisit a sordid saga mothballed by decades of institutional failure.

Getty Images/File

Restore Britain MP Rupert Lowe

A survivor recounted in her recorded testimony, read out by Restore Britain MP Rupert Lowe, how a gang of rapists once filled a room with dogs, "making bets on whether the dogs could actually rape me or not". "And yes, I was raped by a dog," she said.

Another survivor who had been raped said, "I would wear my cross because it was something really, really special to me. They said, 'Where is your God now? Why has your God forsaken you?'"

A survivor said the offenders targeted "almost exclusively white girls". Particularly distressing was the testimony of a girl who said she had been raped by "600 or 700 men over three years", her ordeal starting when she was 13.

A survivor recounted being "raped by multiple police officers in different parts of the country". Yet another said white girls were trafficked through children's homes, the very institutions set up to look after them. "Things would escalate around Eid and holidays. Parties got bigger, got worse, got more violent. More people involved, more girls involved."

MP Lowe had initiated the debate with a petition that garnered 2.6 lakh signatures, calling for a statutory requirement on councils, police, the Crown Prosecution Service and other institutions to ascertain and record the nationality, ethnicity, immigration status and religion of sexual offenders targeting children.

Lowe read out testimonies from grooming-gang victims given at the independent inquiry he himself set up as he felt the official inquiries were moving too slowly. "Comments were constantly made suggesting that white girls and Christian girls were viewed as having fewer morals or lower value, whereas Muslim girls were described by some of the men as having dignity. These comparisons were used to justify the way I was treated and to humiliate and control me," one survivor testified.

Natalie Fleet, minister for safeguarding, said in her response to the debate that the independent inquiry into grooming gangs set up by govt earlier this year would have a laser focus on the role that ethnicity, religion and culture played in these crimes.

B'desh foreign min elected prez of UNGA session

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Bangladesh foreign minister Khalilur Rahman has been elected president of United Nations General Assembly for the 81st session, defeating candidate of Cyprus Andreas Kakouris. Bangladesh last held the position in 1986-87. "This achievement reflects Bangladesh's increasing contribution and credibility on the global stage. We believe he will proudly represent Bangladesh and forge connectivity, dialogue, and cooperation in addressing multilateral, shared challenges," PM Tarique Rahman said.

Indian external affairs minister S Jaishankar congratulated Khalilur and said he looks forward to working closely with him to advance their shared priorities and strengthen multilateral cooperation.

US climber's Everest speed record sparks 'ethics' row

Vishant.Agarwala
@timesofindia.com

Critics said Andrews' aborted climb on May 24 helped him study key sections, plan his speed push and acclimatise before returning for the successful attempt on May 28

American endurance athlete **Tyler Andrews**' record-breaking Everest ascent has triggered a debate in the climbing world, with critics questioning whether his 9-hour, 55-minute summit push from Base Camp benefited from an earlier "route recce".

Andrews, 36, a cancer survivor, reached the summit on May 28, and returned to Base Camp in 16 hours and 32 minutes, breaking a 23-year-old speed record on Everest's South Side. He became the first non-Sherpa climber to hold the South Base Camp speed mark, but critics soon focused on his aborted May 24 attempt.

For the past two years, Andrews' original goal had been to break the no-O_2 Everest speed record set by French climber Marc Batard, who climbed from Base Camp to the summit in 22 hours and 29 minutes in 1988. Andrews had left Base Camp on May 23 aiming for that mark, but shifting weather and serious altitude-related complications forced him to use bottled support before he turned back near the Balcony, at approximately 8,500 metres. Critics said the climb helped him study key sections, plan his speed push and acclimatise before returning for the successful attempt.

Lukasz Borowski, a Polish alpinist who completed a lightweight ascent of Cho Oyu — the world's sixth-highest mountain, on the Nepal-Tibet border — said, "People don't understand how much easier route-finding is when your brain actually has oxygen. He memorised the placement of every technical ladder and rope section while completely clear-headed on his first turn. When you go back to run it fast, that mental blueprint is a massive tactical advantage over someone navigating the icefall in a hypoxic haze."

Pemba Tenzing Sherpa, a veteran high-altitude logistics coordinator with 12 Everest summits, told **TOI**, "If you breathe bottled O_2 at 8,000 meters during a scouting run, you are actively preserving muscle tissue and letting your nervous system recover. Coming back down to Base Camp and running back up a few days later isn't a clean slate. You are riding a wave of oxygen-assisted cellular recovery that a true no-O_2 climber never gets."

Andrews rejected suggestions that the controversy diminished his achievement. "It doesn't take anything away," Andrews said. "They are different marks, but I can't tell that one is harder than the other from an athletic perspective. I have always been motivated by pushing my own limits as an athlete. Climbing without gas is maybe a different kind of hard, but I know that I left everything out there."

Markus Vance, an ultra-endurance coach, said, "The clock does not lie, and he didn't use a single drop of oxygen during the first legs of that 9-hour, 55-minute push. Unless there is a governing body that outlaws supplemental gas during a previous week's acclimatisation, a record is a record."

DAILY PLANET

Warmest spring on record in Norway, temperature 2.1°C above normal

Norway has experienced its warmest spring since records began in 1901, with average temperatures 2.1°C above the seasonal norm, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute announced on Tuesday. Although the Scandinavian country escaped a heatwave that hit Europe in May, above average temperatures in March and April contributed to the record, said a weather institute statement. "The sun is too stable to explain today's rapid climate change. It must be caused by our emissions of fossil fuels," climatologist Jostein Mamen stressed. The previous warmest spring was recorded in 2024, when temperatures were 1.8°C above normal, with 2025 the second warmest. The warming was particularly noticeable in northern Norway. In Svalbard, an archipelago halfway between mainland Norway and the North Pole, temperatures in April were sometimes 5 to 6 degrees above normal, according to the institute.

Bear injures 4 people in residential area of Japan

A bear injured four people in a Japanese residential area on Tuesday in the latest case of an attack by the animals in an area of the country where bears have increasingly encroached on the human population in recent years. Japan's environment ministry said 13 people were killed in more than 230 attacks by bears in 2025, exceeding the number of fatalities and attacks in any preceding year.

The golden age of presidential comedy: Making America cringe again

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Historians may someday conclude that US President Donald Trump's greatest contribution to American political discourse was not immigration enforcement or peace treaty, or even a trade war. It may have been a painstaking seminar on how he coined the word "Dumocrats."

In several interviews over the past week, Trump has unveiled what he appeared to regard as a linguistic breakthrough on par with the discovery of fire. "You know why I call them Dumocrats?" he explained patiently about his enfeebled political opponents. "Because they're dumb." Then came the etymology lecture that included the priceless assertion that not many people know that the word dumb ends with a b.

On more than one occasion, the president has carefully walked his audience through the spelling of simple monosyllabic words that three-year olds ace, as if introducing cave dwellers to the alphabet. He once explained that "see" is spelled S-E-E not S-E-A, and another time said he made the remarkable discovery that the US, as in the United States, is spelled "U-S" as in us.

Late-night comedians have reacted as if Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah, and the Super Bowl of jokes had all arrived together. One host observed that Trump was now explaining words the way a kindergarten teacher explains crayons to children. Another joked that America had somehow elected a president who could turn a two-syllable word into a graduate seminar.

Yet this was merely the latest instalment in what has become the longest-running comedy series in modern political history. While previous presidents occasionally generated a joke or two, Trump has transformed the presidency into an industrial-scale content factory for comedians. On some nights, while much of America sleeps, the president embarks on marathon social-media posting sessions.

One recent evening produced more than 50 posts in rapid succession. The resulting feed did not read like communications from the commander-in-chief . There were posts about judges, about polls, about TV ratings, about construction projects, and about people insufficiently grateful to him. He also posted AI generated images adding himself to Mt Rushmore, riding with George Washington, and presenting himself as a superhero. Somewhere around post number 47, even loyal followers appeared to lose track of whether America was winning a trade war, building a ballroom, invading a country, or merely arguing about renaming buildings.

No account of Trump's comedy output would be complete without his enduring fixation with cognitive tests, a subject he returns to with the persistence of a man who believes he deserves a Nobel Prize for identifying a camel in a book. Repeatedly boasting about acing the Montreal Cognitive Assessment, the president recites portions of the test as though recounting the moon landing. The joke, as several comics have pointed out, is that the test is not designed to identify geniuses but to detect signs of cognitive impairment and dementia. "It's like bragging that you passed a breathalyser," one comedian quipped. Another compared it to a driver announcing he had successfully stopped at a red light.

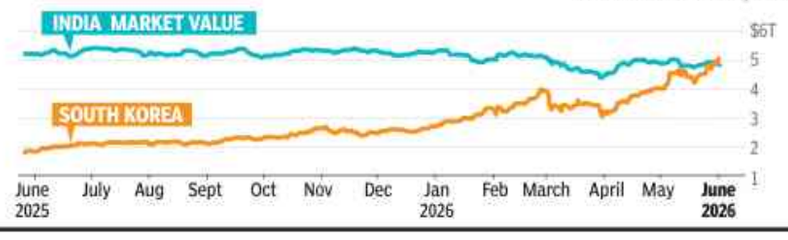
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

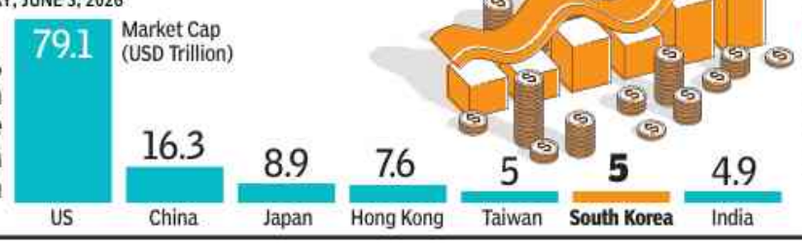
Now, South Korea Pips India To 6th In Global M-Cap

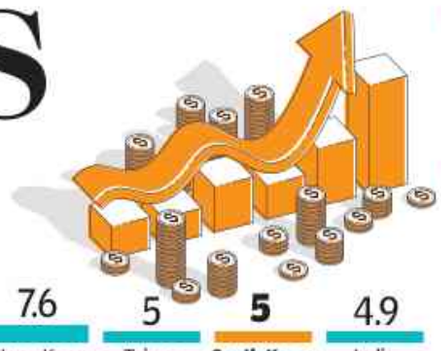
India's equity markets slipped to seventh place in terms of market capitalisation on Tuesday. South Korean stocks have rallied this year, driven by AI chipmakers, which have lifted the combined value of companies listed on the KOSPI to over $5.1 trillion

How Tech-Heavy South Korea Surpassed India's M-Cap



South Korea, Taiwan In Close Battle For 5th Position





- **Heavy foreign selling, weak earnings growth and limited exposure to AI-linked stocks have affected India's markets**
- About 18 months ago, India's equity market cap was roughly 3.5 times South Korea's and more than twice Taiwan's

Source: LSEG, Bloomberg

Godrej starts wealth mgmt business

Mumbai: Godrej Industries Group has launched its wealth management business, Godrej Wealth, through subsidiary Godrej Investments, with a target to build assets under management of Rs 1,00,000 crore by 2031 and expand to 35 locations over the next five years. The business will operate alongside Godrej Capital to form the group's financial services arm. The platform will focus on affluent and HNI clients with investable assets of Rs 2 crore and above, and will offer services across wealth management, succession planning, private markets, global investments, and portfolio structuring. TNN

Ola Electric launches ₹1,500-crore QIP

Bengaluru: Electric two-wheeler maker Ola Electric on Monday launched its qualified institutional placement (QIP), setting a floor price of Rs 37.7 per share, according to a stock exchange filing. The floor price is about 4.5% lower than the company's closing price of Rs 39.5 on the BSE. The company's board approved plans in Oct to raise up to Rs 1,500 crore through the QIP route. However, people familiar with the matter said the final amount could be lower, depending on investor demand. Proceeds from the QIP will be used to repay borrowings, fund growth initiatives and meet general corporate requirements. TNN

Scripbox buys Bluechip Capital's MF business

Bengaluru: Wealth management platform Scripbox has acquired the mutual fund distribution business of Bluechip Capital as part of its expansion strategy in North India. The transaction will bring Bluechip Capital's clients and employees under Scripbox. Financial details of the deal were not disclosed. Founded and led by Ravi Kohli for more than three decades, Bluechip Capital has established a strong presence as an independent wealth management firm in North India. TNN

Plum rolls out ₹15cr ESOP buyback

Bengaluru: Employee health benefits startup Plum has launched its first employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) buyback programme worth Rs 15 crore, enabling current and former employees to monetise a portion of their vested stock options. The Bengaluru-based company said the buyback will cover 199 current and former employees — 73 existing employees and 126 former employees whose ESOPs had vested as of March 31, 2026. Eligible participants can liquidate up to 25% of their vested options. TNN

Coca-Cola India's bottling arm, Oyo parent pursue IPO plans

Even As Crisis In West Asia Has Heightened Market Volatility

Asmita Dey & Rupali Mukherjee | TNN

Mumbai/Delhi: The West Asia war-induced challenging fund-raising market conditions notwithstanding, some of the leading unlisted companies are moving ahead with plans to go public.

On Tuesday, Prism, the parent of hospitality firm Oyo, got Sebi nod for its IPO that could be worth up to Rs 6,650 crore. Earlier in the day, global beverage giant Coca-Cola said it was exploring potential listing of Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings (HCCH), the parent of its largest bottler in India, in 2027. The IPO, estimated to be worth about $1 billion (around Rs 9,500 crore at current exchange rate), could rank among the largest public offerings in the country's consumer beverages space in recent years.

Investors on Dalal Street are also awaiting IPOs of Jio Platforms and National Stock Exchange (NSE), each worth several billion dollars. The two companies are, however, yet to file their papers with the regulator. In addition to these companies, quick commerce major Zepto is also moving ahead with its listing plans. Mumbai-based Parle Products, the makers of Melody toffees, is also planning to go public. Melody was recently in the news globally after Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a packet of the toffee to his Italian counterpart. Global PE major Temasek-backed Manipal Hospitals is also planning its IPO, which could be worth about Rs 10,000 crore.

A handful of companies, however, have also declared to delay their listing plans, thanks to the war-led market uncertainties. Walmart's PhonePe and Flipkart, for instance, have paused their IPO processes.

On Tuesday, Coca-Cola said that in the run up to the IPO, it's also exploring the sale of a portion of its shareholding in HCCH. Currently, the US major owns 60% in the company while the balance is held by Delhi-based Jubilant Bhartia Group that bought the stake in 2025.

The development is part of Coca-Cola's broader global asset-light strategy, under which it has been divesting its bottling operations and transitioning to a franchise-led model. The US major "will stay invested in this important bottler and focus on growing (its) portfolio of global and local brands in India," said Sanket Ray, president, India & Southwest Asia and emerging large markets lead for The Coca-Cola Company.

The company's India bottling arm operates 14 bottling plants across 10 states and packages, distributes, and sells beverages, including Coca-Cola, Thums Up, Sprite, and Fanta.

On its part, Prism, which had filed IPO papers through the confidential route in end-Dec, plans to file updated draft papers by early July, sources said. Prism declined to comment. "The company is currently evaluating market conditions and broader listing timelines," sources said.

The company is seeking to raise up to Rs 6,650 crore through fresh issues of shares and is targeting a valuation of $7-$8 billion.

BILLION DOLLAR IPO FOR HCCH?

- **Prism, the parent of hospitality firm Oyo,** got Sebi nod for its IPO that could be worth up to **₹6,650 crore**
- **Hindustan Coca Cola Holdings' IPO** is estimated to be worth about **$1 billion (around ₹9,500 crore)**
- Investors on D-Street are also awaiting IPOs of **Jio Platforms and National Stock Exchange (NSE),** each worth several billion dollars
- Quick commerce major **Zepto** too is moving ahead with its listing plans
- **Walmart's PhonePe and Flipkart,** however, have paused their IPO processes

India slips to seventh in global m-cap ranking

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: On Tuesday, India slipped to the seventh spot in terms of stock market valuation as South Korea marched to sixth. In the last two years, India has slipped three places in the rankings after Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea overtook it, historical data showed.

Nearly unabated foreign fund selling since Sept 2024 (when the sensex hit a new life peak at almost 86,000-point mark), muted corporate earnings that failed to justify India's high valuations compared to some emerging market peers, and the country's slow growth relating to AI-led tech developments led to this slide, market players said.

Currently, India's $4.9 trillion market cap is behind South Korea and Taiwan's, both of which are at a little over the $5-trillion mark, Reuters data showed. At the top of the table is the US with a $79.1-trillion market cap, followed by China at $16.3 trillion, Japan at $8.9 trillion and Hong Kong at $7.6 trillion.

India's market cap ranking slide came despite a 0.5% rise in sensex during the day. With crude oil prices sliding, the index rallied to close 383 pts up at 74,650

While India lags in the AI-led market cap race, South Korea and Taiwan have gained as some companies from these countries lead the global rush for AI chips.

Markets have rewarded their stocks handsomely. The list includes TSMC from Taiwan, Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix from South Korea.

The slide in India's market cap ranking came despite a 0.5% rise in the sensex during the day. Positive geopolitical cues from West Asia improved sentiment on Dalal Street on Tuesday. With crude oil prices sliding, the index rallied from the red zone to close 383 points up at 74,650 points.

The day's gains in sensex and Nifty came on the back of strong buying by domestic funds while foreign funds were net sellers. While domestic institutional investors were net buyers at Rs 9,589 crore, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net sellers at Rs 8,363 crore.

Agilitas raises ₹225 crore from Nexus, Rainmatter

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Bengaluru: Sportswear platform Agilitas has raised Rs 225 crore in fresh funding from existing investor Nexus Venture Partners and Rainmatter as it accelerates plans to build an integrated sportswear ecosystem spanning manufacturing, brands and retail.

The round comprises a follow-on investment of Rs 200 crore from Nexus Venture Partners and Rs 25 crore from Rainmatter. The funding comes on top of the Rs 100 crore invested by Nexus and the Rs 400 crore funding round advised by Convergent Finance in 2023.

"There is absolutely no dearth of interest from capital partners," Agilitas founder and CEO **Abhishek Ganguly** told TOI. "I am not raising capital to keep the business afloat. I am raising capital for growth." The fresh capital will be deployed across manufacturing expansion, retail rollout, product development, R&D, talent acquisition and brand building.

Agilitas, co-founded by former Puma India MD Ganguly, is building a full-stack sportswear platform spanning manufacturing, brands and retail. The company entered manufacturing through the acquisition of Mochiko Shoes, one of India's largest sports footwear manufacturers.

"When we acquired Mochiko, the business was doing about Rs 640 crore in revenue. Last year we closed at around Rs 1,350 crore. We expanded capacity and more than doubled the business," Ganguly said.

India, UK to narrow gaps to roll out trade deal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and the UK on Tuesday agreed to resolve the gaps so that the bilateral trade agreement can be implemented at the earliest.

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal held talks with UK secretary of state for business and trade Peter Kyle on addressing the ticklish issues as India has concerns over the steel quotas and duties that are sought to be introduced by the Keir Starmer govt.

"Had great conversations on charting the next phase of India-UK economic engagement, advancing shared business priorities, and further strengthening our robust and forward-looking partnership," Goyal said in a social media post.

Engaged in extensive discussions with UK Permanent Secretary Ms. Amanda Brooks on #IndiaUKCETA implementation. Took stock of progress and worked through the sticking points, while exploring new pathways under #IndiaUKCETA #GlobalTrade #EconomicPartnership aligned with #ViksitBharat. Reaffirmed commitment to regular engagement with @UKGovScotland @TradeGov for effective implementation, Rajesh Agrawal, commerce secretary said in a post on X.

Britain's safeguard measures on steel are coming in the way of rolling out the trade deal, which will lower tariffs and ease access for businesses, as India wants the issue to be resolved.

Besides, govt is seeking the carbon border adjustment mechanism, which is to kick in from next year.

High costs dampen summer for bev cos

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Mumbai: Cans or glass bottles, beer or cold beverages—companies are losing their cool over rising costs this summer instead of keeping their spirits high amid what is otherwise supposed to be an El-Nino-induced harsher season, driving more demand.

The war has hit firms on two fronts–for one, soft drink players such as Coca-Cola which use aluminium cans (for Diet Coke and the 300 ml cans tend to sell more in India) are facing supply disruption as the bulk of the imports of such cans are sourced from West Asia. Even packaged coffee companies, some of whom sell smaller 230 ml cans, have a similar issue. D2C coffee brand Sleepy Owl, for instance, is tapping South-East Asian markets for aluminium cans but costs have so far gone up by about 15%. Besides, given the high demand, supplies are also taking time to be procured.

"Going ahead, there will be no option but to pass on the increase to consumers. While for us, the cost of glass bottles is lower, logistics is an issue," said CEO Ajai Thandi, adding that cans make up 25-30% of the company's portfolio.

As far as beer makers are concerned, the cost of both aluminium cans and glass bottles has spiked, despite about 80% of industry supplies being sourced locally.

This is because the war hit production on ground just when the industry builds up on inventory, creating a backlog which is yet to be mitigated. The shortage of LPG then impacted manufacturing operations—can suppliers have increased prices by 15% while cost of glass bottles have gone up by 20%, said Vinod Giri, director general at Brewers Association of India.

"We don't have a supply issue on cans because we have the global network....we have an inflation issue, a cost issue," Vivek Gupta, MD & CEO at United Breweries, which makes Heineken and Kingfisher beers said in a recent earnings call.

Some old stock of 300 ml Diet Coke cans priced at Rs 40 are still available in the market but distributors expect the new stock to be priced higher—by Rs 10 or so, said Dhairyashil Patil, president at The All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF). Queries sent to Coca-Cola and PepsiCo India did not elicit any responses.

COLD-PLAY AMID WAR HEAT

- **Supply squeeze hits peak season** | War-led disruptions, LPG shortages delay can & bottle availability
- **Rise in packaging costs** | Suppliers have raised aluminium can prices by about 15%, glass bottle costs up by 20%
- **Beer, cola, coffee costs rise** | Sleepy Owl sees about 15% cost rise; can-only Diet Coke impacted, beer can inventories facing backlog
- **Limited pricing power** | States regulate price hikes, squeezing margins & working capital for brewers

Citi: India's AI advantage needs better articulation

'Uncertainty Over AI-Driven Economy And Energy Dependency Hurting FDI Prospects'

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Mumbai: Vis Raghavan, head of banking and executive vice chair of Citi, was in India for its annual India conference, which unites all businesses and 1,000 corporates. It is part of a global push to bring buy/sell side participants, policymakers, and decision-makers onto one platform. Raghavan is credited as a seasoned investment banker and dealmaker for building and leading the banking franchise at Citi and earlier at JP Morgan.

In an interview with **TOI**, he speaks about what it takes for India to attract foreign capital.

■ It's almost 100 days now since the West Asia conflict. What is the impact you are seeing?

It varies by region. In the United States, the market is very much "risk-on." We've seen a flurry of deals across sectors, especially in tech and AI—data centre financing and AI infrastructure rollout have dominated. We have also seen major M&A activity. Citi has been involved in three of the largest deals in Q1 this year including Paramount acquiring Warner Bros, where Citi advised and helped finance a $54 billion bridge. There was also McCormick acquiring Unilever's Foods business in a $45 billion deal. Coming to India, sentiment is largely domestically driven. Retail and domestic institutional participation are strong. However, FDI interest is muted due to two main factors: energy dependency and oil prices, and uncertainty over India's position in the AI-driven global economy.

■ So those are the main reasons why FDI is not coming to India?

Yes, broadly. Capital seeks alpha, and currently the biggest alpha opportunities are perceived to be in AI. Even in the US, markets are somewhat polarised—AI and tech stocks have surged, while the rest of the economy has performed more moderately. This has created a two-tier market. Chip stocks, for instance, have been major beneficiaries, directing capital towards places like Taiwan. This reallocation of capital has led to softer FDI flows into India.

■ Yields have been rising globally, especially in the US. Are companies prepared for this, and are higher yields here to stay?

That depends on inflation trends across regions. The key drivers are trade friction, tariffs, and energy prices. There's a growing view that yields may stay higher for longer. This is a concern for sovereigns, especially in the West, given their large debt burdens. The trajectory will depend heavily on macro conditions and geopolitical developments, particularly their impact on energy markets.

■ So businesses and households can live with it?

Corporates are in strong shape—healthy balance sheets, controlled leverage, solid valuations (especially in the US). They can absorb or pass through costs. Households are holding up so far—consumption remains steady, employment is strong, and equity markets support sentiment. But caution is rising.

■ What should India do to attract foreign capital?

The macro needs to stabilise—and likely will. Alongside, India must better articulate its position as a major winner in a post-AI world. That narrative is emerging, but not strongly enough. India can be a core node in the global AI architecture—across power, green-energy transition, IP creation, and talent depth.

> As companies move towards becoming AI-native and retool their processes, the demand for compute will surge globally. Everyone is racing to meet this demand, which is why capital is pouring into AI infrastructure
>
> Deals like SpaceX are reference, benchmark transactions. There's a small cohort of such names, and the market treats them as anchor points. The key on price discovery: the IPO market is becoming far more selective. One large transaction doesn't open the floodgates
>
>
>
> —VIS RAGHAVAN, HEAD OF BANKING & EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIR, CITI

Infosys, TCS, Wipro cross three lakh Copilot licences

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Bengaluru: Infosys, TCS and Wipro have each scaled Microsoft 365 Copilot deployments to more than 100,000 employees, taking the combined rollout across the three IT majors to over 300,000 licences in less than six months, in what Microsoft described as one of the largest enterprise AI deployments globally.

The expansion marks a sharp increase from the roughly 50,000-seat deployments announced last year and reflects growing confidence that GenAI is delivering measurable business outcomes. "The fact that they've doubled in six months is a proof point for the value they're seeing," Puneet Chandok, president of Microsoft India and South Asia, told TOI. "This is not a procurement decision; this is a value decision."

The deployment numbers come as enterprises increasingly question whether AI investments translate into tangible returns. Chandok said the focus is shifting from licence counts and token consumption to business outcomes. "Seats and tokens are inputs. The measure of success has to be outcomes," he said. "How efficiently can an organisation convert compute, energy and tokens into measurable economic output? Inputs only matter until they translate into outcomes."

> The fact that they (license rollouts) have doubled in six months is a proof point for the value they (IT firms) are seeing...This is not a procurement decision; this is a value decision
>
> **Puneet Chandok**
> PRESIDENT, MICROSOFT INDIA, SOUTH ASIA
>
>

Microsoft said usage levels across the three companies indicate that AI tools are becoming embedded into daily workflows. Infosys reported 91% monthly active usage among Copilot users, while TCS saw 86% daily active usage. Wipro, meanwhile, has built more than 26,000 employee-created AI agents and recorded 95% monthly active usage. "Everybody who's got a Copilot is using it significantly," Chandok said. "This is sustained usage, deep integration and real outcomes. We've moved from experimentation to scale." But Chandok argued that the broader impact extends beyond productivity metrics.

"The whole thesis around AI so far has been about productivity. What we're finding is AI is lifting individual potential," he said. Referring to Microsoft's latest Work Trend Index, Chandok said 49% of Copilot usage globally is concentrated in cognitive work such as analysis, creativity and problem-solving, while 58% of users say they are doing work they could not perform a year ago. "As AI and agents take on execution, human agency expands," he said. "The opportunity for human potential at work has never been greater."

The shift is also changing the nature of work inside technology companies. Engineers are increasingly expected to focus on architecture, system design, security, and governance rather than routine coding tasks.

"If AI handles repetitive layers like code completion, testing and documentation, humans have to do more value-adding work," Chandok said. "The nature of work itself is changing."

India is emerging as one of Microsoft's fastest-growing markets for Copilot and agentic AI adoption. "India is setting the pace for Asia," Chandok said. "This is a decisive shift towards enterprise-wide AI adoption at scale and no longer just experimentation."

Producer price index, revised WPI set to come on June 15

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New Delhi: Nearly two decades after a working group was formed to compile producer price index (PPI), govt Tuesday finally laid out a road map for its introduction. On June 15, govt will unveil the revised wholesale price index, with 2022-23 base, and along with it will come PPI.

In five years, govt intends to phase out the wholesale price index (WPI) and adopt PPI as a measure to track the factory gate inflation – the price borne by the producers.

Principal economic advisor in DPIIT Praveen Mahto told reporters that PPI, also with 2022-23 base year, will have three components – output and input PPI for the manufacturing sector and service PPI for seven categories - banking, securities transaction, insurance, management of pension funds, railways, air (Passenger), and telecom.

"Considering the wide usage of WPI in price escalation clauses in contracts, we will continue with WPI for five years. Thereafter, it will be discontinued," said Mahto. The services PPI will be released quarterly, and efforts are underway to cover other services sectors as well under it, said Dilip Kumar Sinha, deputy director general. This shift brings India in line with most advanced economies, offering policymakers a comprehensive inflation metric that tracks price pressures faced by both goods and services producers, unlike WPI which only tracks price changes experienced by goods producers.

IS **AI RESHAPING** THE WORLD

THE INVISIBLE IT DEPARTMENT

Imagine an IT department that never sleeps, an invisible digital colleague monitoring, diagnosing, and resolving issues before they disrupt work. AI is no longer just a supporting tool; it is becoming an active collaborator for IT professionals. By triaging tickets in real time, identifying patterns across complex systems, and predicting failures before they occur, AI is transforming how enterprises think about continuity and resilience. Automating everyday troubleshooting liberates IT teams to focus on the big picture. From optimising cloud resources to resolving connectivity glitches, AI copilots scale efficiency far beyond human limits. They continuously adapt and learn. Consider the remote employee facing a system crash minutes before a client call. Instead of downtime, AI diagnoses the fault instantly, applies a patch, and restores access, all while alerting IT to reinforce safeguards for the future. The invisible IT department does more than just fix problems; it empowers employees with faster, more reliable technology.

Yogesh Pant | MANAGING DIRECTOR, GOTO INDIA

iToons Ajit Ninan & Sunil Agarwal

FROM LUDO TO LOVE ISLAND:

India's Mobile Gaming Firms Think Global

Some have been licensed by global toy giants to make mobile versions of popular physical board games

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A new generation of Indian mobile gaming companies are building games for audiences far beyond India's borders.

For years, India's role in the global gaming industry was largely that of a consumer. Hundreds of millions of people played games on their smartphones, but few locally developed titles found meaningful commercial success abroad. That is beginning to change.

Today, a growing number of Indian gaming studios are creating products for players in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. They are using artificial intelligence, advanced analytics and global publishing strategies to compete in a market worth more than $200 billion, while simultaneously laying the foundations for what many believe will eventually become a significant gaming economy at home.

The reality, however, is that most Indian gaming companies still earn the majority of their money overseas.

"India has more than 500 million gamers, but monetisation remains a challenge," said Nitish Mittersain, founder and chief executive of Nazara Technologies. "Advertising rates are still relatively low and in-app purchases are only now starting to gain traction. Most successful Indian developers have had to look beyond India and build for global markets."

Nazara is perhaps the clearest example of that strategy. The company has built a portfolio spanning mobile, PC and console games. Its portfolio includes educational title Kidopia, cricket game World Cricket Championship and Love Island, based on the popular television franchise. Around 70-80% of its revenue comes from North America and Europe.

"We are building across major platforms, including now Roblox," Mittersain said. "We operate globally, and that diversification has become a key part of our growth strategy."

The same global outlook is visible at SuperGaming, the Pune-based studio behind multiplayer shooter MaskGun and the India-inspired battle royale title Indus, which is now being positioned internationally as Prime Rush.

Founded by gaming veteran Roby John and his team, SuperGaming has built a reputation for multiplayer technology. MaskGun alone has attracted more than 110 million users worldwide. The company is now preparing to expand further into international markets and bring its games to PC and consoles. Most of its paying users currently come from markets such as the United States, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

Another company proving that Indian studios can build for global audiences is Bengaluru-based Gameberry Labs.

Founded in 2017, the company specialises in turning traditional tabletop games into digital experiences. Its portfolio includes multiplayer versions of Ludo, Parcheesi and Backgammon, games that have attracted players across South Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. The company today employs around 350 people, with most of its revenue generated overseas.

Its international ambitions received a major boost when it partnered with Hasbro, the American toy and entertainment giant behind some of the world's most recognisable board game franchises, including Monopoly, Scrabble, Risk and Cluedo.

Gameberry was selected to bring Hasbro's classic board game Sorry! into digital form, transforming a decades-old tabletop experience into a multiplayer mobile game designed for modern audiences.

"Hasbro generally works with gaming companies around the world, but they were impressed by the work we had done on Ludo and Parcheesi," said Afsar Ahmad, co-founder of Gameberry Labs.

The process involves much more than recreating a physical board game on a smartphone screen. Gameberry rebuilds the experience for digital audiences, adding online multiplayer capabilities, social features and long-term engagement mechanics while preserving the core gameplay that made the original title successful.

The company is already working with Hasbro on additional titles.

For newer companies such as Bengaluru-based Felicity Games, success depends less on individual titles and more on identifying global trends before competitors do.

Rather than operating as a traditional game studio, Felicity functions as a publisher. It analyses market data, identifies promising genres and works with developers to rapidly test new concepts. Founder and chief executive Anurag Choudhary said the company has evaluated more than 40 games in search of the next breakout hit.

"We monitor thousands of games every day," Choudhary said. "We track downloads, rankings and growth rates to identify genres that are gaining momentum. The goal is to understand where consumer demand is emerging and move quickly."

One company with perhaps the broadest view of India's gaming ecosystem is JetSynthesys.

Led by entrepreneur Rajan Navani, the company operates across gaming, esports, creator platforms, music and digital entertainment. It was among the pioneers of esports in India and has played a key role in building some of the infrastructure that supports the country's gaming industry.

Navani argues that India's gaming opportunity extends beyond simply building successful games. It also involves creating the payment systems, creator networks and competitive ecosystems that allow the industry to flourish.

Among JetSynthesys' lesser-known businesses is NovaPlay, which provides payment infrastructure for international gaming platforms. The company also works with Steam, helping global publishers reach Indian consumers through local payment mechanisms and promotions.

"We've seen how much growth can be unlocked simply by making global platforms more accessible to Indian users," Navani said. "When you localise payments and create experiences that fit local consumers, participation increases dramatically."

While global expansion remains the dominant strategy, several founders believe India's domestic gaming market is finally reaching an important inflection point.

Hitwicket offers perhaps the strongest evidence. Founded in Hyderabad by Kashyap Reddy, the company has built a cricket management game that now has more than 20 million users across 100 countries. Unlike most peers, India remains its largest market. Around 65% of users are based in India, while roughly half of the company's revenue comes from Indian players. The game generates revenue entirely through in-app purchases rather than advertising.

"The biggest shift is that people are beginning to spend money on games," Reddy said. "More working professionals are playing regularly and are willing to pay for experiences they enjoy."

"Creating a digital version of a Hasbro board game starts with understanding the game's core appeal—what makes it fun around a table. The team then translates the rules into software systems, builds the gameplay in Unity, and develops multiplayer, matchmaking, progression, and live-ops features around it. A reusable technology stack handles networking, player accounts, analytics, events, and anti-cheat. — **Afsar Ahmad** | CO-FOUNDER, GAMEBERRY LABS

"India has one of the world's largest gaming populations, but monetisation is still evolving. That's why successful Indian gaming companies have had to think globally from day one. The opportunity is no longer limited to India. If you build strong intellectual property and use technologies like AI effectively, you can create games that compete anywhere in the world. — **Nitish Mittersain** | CEO & FOUNDER, NAZARA TECHNOLOGIES

"India is already one of the fastest-growing gaming markets in the world, but we are still only scratching the surface of the opportunity. As technology, creativity and AI come together, Indian companies have the chance to build globally relevant intellectual property, create entirely new industries and establish India as a major force in digital entertainment. — **Rajan Navani** | CEO & FOUNDER, JETSYNTHESYS

"One of the biggest changes we're seeing is that gaming in India is increasingly being viewed as entertainment rather than just a pastime. People are spending more time and money on games they enjoy. At the same time, Indian studios now have the opportunity to build products that succeed both at home and in global markets. — **Kashyap Reddy** | CEO & CO-FOUNDER, HITWICKET

"For too long, India has been seen primarily as a consumer of games rather than a creator. We're trying to change that by building original intellectual property that can travel globally. The goal isn't just to make games for Indian players, but to create worlds, stories and experiences that resonate with audiences across multiple markets. — **Roby John** | CEO & CO-FOUNDER, SUPERGAMING

"The gaming industry has become a global competition for attention. AI is accelerating development, making it easier than ever to create games, but distribution and understanding player demand have become even more important. The companies that succeed will be the ones that can identify trends early, move quickly and scale globally. — **Anurag Choudhary** | CEO & FOUNDER, FELICITY GAMES

How to make agentic AI dependable at scale

Sujit John & Akhil George | tnn

The conversation around AI in enterprises has moved decisively beyond experimentation. The new challenge is no longer how to build an impressive proof-of-concept, but how to deploy agentic AI at scale in ways that are reliable, governed and capable of delivering measurable business outcomes.

That was the central theme of a discussion we had last week.

"We are at a fascinating tipping point," Sunil Jose, head of India for Workday, the $10-billion cloud-based enterprise software company, said. "We are moving past that initial awe of what AI can do, and now we are facing the real enterprise world: How do we make AI scale? How do we make it matter?"

Scaling AI, he said, isn't just about deploying technology, but about embedding intelligence directly into the fabric of business operations to drive measurable value. "The agents need to be part of the system-of-record, not a bolt-on chatbot sitting on the side. And we need to govern AI agents like digital employees with clear identities, permissions, and audit trails," he said.

Sangeeta Gupta, senior VP & chief strategy officer at Nasscom, said enterprises have to get their data foundation right, their governance right, and their workforce ready before they can expect their pilot, siloed AI use-cases to really scale and impact the business.

Ajay Pimpalshende, director of product & program management at JLL, the commercial real estate and investment management company, was equally emphatic on that point.

"Many people assume that India is a laggard in AI, but I think Indian enterprises have come a long way from just being in the AI experimentation phase. However, I would also say that the AI readiness is not the same across sectors. In sectors like financial services, telecom, some parts of retail, and certainly the tech services and GCC sectors, you see AI moving from pilots to production a lot more. **Sangeeta Gupta** | SENIOR VP & CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER, NASSCOM

"Putting agentic AI on outdated infrastructure is like fitting a Ferrari engine to a bullock cart – loud, expensive, and ineffective. Modernise the foundation first, then add intelligence. Second, prioritise business pain over technology fascination. We built Ask HR not because GenAI was trending, but because 215,000 HR tickets annually were overwhelming us. Third, invest in trust. Publish your metrics. Allow employees to flag errors. **Ajay Pimpalshende** | DIRECTOR, PRODUCT & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, JLL

"AI agents are having a dramatic impact. At 7-Eleven stores, automation has reduced time-to-hire by 70%, giving store managers back more than 2 million hours a year. NetApp reviewed more than 90,000 contracts using agents, and saved more than $2.5 million and thousands of hours. Snowflake reduced onboarding from months to weeks by automating manual tasks. Cognizant cut payroll processing from 9 days to 2 days while improving compliance. **Sunil Jose** | PRESIDENT, WORKDAY INDIA

Enterprises must, he said, "unify before they amplify". "Don't start with AI. Start with the foundation. AI amplifies what you provide. Fragmented foundation equals fragmented AI. My honest advice for every CXO: don't AI-enable your legacy systems," he said.

JLL spent nearly 18 months building a unified platform across more than 80 countries before aggressively deploying AI capabilities. The company has since built several AI-powered applications, including an 'Ask HR' assistant that handles employee queries ranging from leave balances to transfer policies. Previously, such requests generated more than 200,000 HR service tickets annually. The new system now allows HR teams to focus on coaching, workforce planning and strategic work.

Another application allows leaders to query HR and workforce data using natural language rather than building custom reports. "If my CHRO from Chicago wants to understand what's happening in Singapore – attrition rate, number of hires, compensation – she can simply query it in natural language and immediately get a report," Pimpalshende said. JLL has also deployed AI-enabled recruitment systems that have reduced hiring cycles from 52 days to less than 30 days.

Some of the strongest near-term impact of AI agents, Jose said, is emerging in finance, HR, workforce planning, procurement and employee services. In finance, agents can automate reconciliations, audit preparation and planning activities. In HR, they can answer routine employee queries, manage staffing changes, and streamline recruitment. In procurement, they can support sourcing, contract reviews and invoice matching.

Managing risks of autonomy

But as AI agents gain greater autonomy, governance becomes a central concern. How do enterprises allow AI agents to act independently while ensuring compliance, auditability and accountability? Jose argued that enterprises must treat AI agents like digital employees. "Enforce the least privileged access so agents can only act on data that is relevant to the user," he said. And every action must remain traceable. "We need to execute agent actions under identification of the human they represent, so every step is traceable back to the person, a policy and a business justification," he said.

For heavy judgement decisions, keeping humans in the loop, he said, is very important – even as agents are used to prepare all the work and bring together the right context.

Gupta echoed that view, arguing that agentic AI is about augmented decision-making, not about replacement of humans. "You could take a risk-based approach. You may have a marketing use case where you let an agent work autonomously, within boundaries that you define. But there may be higher-risk use cases that need audit trails, explainability and grievance mechanisms. In credit, healthcare, public services, you need a human who's really responsible for the end outcomes," she said. It is also important, she said, to ensure transparency is built into the design. So that when AI is used, users will know the precise role it's playing, the data it is relying on, and what they can challenge and escalate.

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Nisheeth Srivastava | CHIEF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OFFICER – INDIA, CAPGEMINI

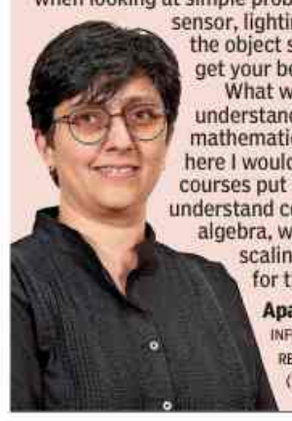
FRIDAY JUNE 5, 11:30 AM

Event page link: https://bit.ly/AIcareeredge9

AI's next road test is physical

"What we definitely expect every engineer to have is foundational expertise in core engineering principles. That is not going away. Physics is a necessary skill for all engineers, especially when we start to deal with a lot of sensors. There is a lot of physics involved when dealing with vision sensors, when looking at simple problems like saturation of the sensor, lighting conditions, placement of the object such that you are able to get your best inferences.

What would also be important is to understand AI/ML from the mathematical foundations of it. And here I would recommend the AI and ML courses put out by IITs, IISc. You need to understand convex optimisation, linear algebra, which is important for scaling up problem statements for the real world.



Aparna Pratap | DEPUTY GM – INFOTAINMENT, MERCEDES-BENZ RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INDIA (MBRDI)

Sujit John & Akhil George | TNN

The next big leap in AI may not come from systems that generate text, code or images. It may come from AI that understands the physical world.

Aparna Pratap, deputy general manager for infotainment at Mercedes-Benz Research & Development India (MBRDI), says the future of AI in automotive engineering will depend on systems that grasp physics, space and context far more deeply than today's generative AI models.

"In AI research, there are specifically two areas which I follow and which I believe could have immense impact on the automotive side of things, and these relate to AI understanding physics inherently," she said on our podcast recently.

She pointed to work by Yann LeCun on world models and Fei-Fei Li on spatial intelligence. Both lines of research, she said, are trying to give AI an intuitive understanding of the 3D world. That matters deeply in automobiles, where systems must operate in unpredictable real-world environments.

Today's neural networks are trained on millions of data points and videos. But when they encounter edge cases, uncertainty remains. "We are always fingers crossed," Aparna said. If AI moves towards world modelling and spatial intelligence, "these kinds of predictions become intuitively more intelligent, and also in the real physical space, more natural."

The implication for engineering could be significant. AI models may need less brute-force data training and more intelligent 3D modelling. That could change how autonomous and edge-deployed AI systems are built. A model that understands the physical space inherently could respond better when deployed in vehicles, robots or other physical environments.

Mercedes-Benz has already used computer vision and AI in vehicle interfaces. Aparna noted that Mercedes worked on gesture control as early as 2018, using computer vision algorithms that were later deployed in the flagship S-Class in 2020. "You just wave your hand and you're able to open the sunroof," she said.

But the industry is moving beyond gesture models. "The world is moving towards voice," she said, adding that carmakers are exploring new modalities that make the user interface more intuitive.

Her advice to young engineers is clear: do not chase only the newest tool. Build fundamentals. Core engineering principles, physics, mathematics, especially linear algebra for AI/ML – all of these will remain important.

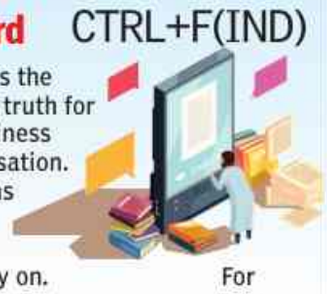
She urged students to participate in hackathons, solve real-world problems, publish work on GitHub, and open-source projects where possible. In agentic AI, she recommended studying open courseware, and courses such as Stanford's CS336: Language modeling from scratch. "The Stanford course is one of my favourites. You learn how generative AI works, what is the infrastructure required, and then how do you start to deploy it for production grade," she said.

Aparna also recommended a 15-minute daily reading habit. Read anything, and then summarise it without AI.

"In today's world, the students, the workforce, we all talk to two different species – humans and machines," she said. Engineers must learn to prompt machines with precision, but must not lose the ability to communicate with humans. That exchange of ideas with humans is so crucial.

AI CAREER EDGE

System of record CTRL+F(IND)



A system of record is the primary source of truth for a specific type of business data within an organisation. It stores and maintains authoritative information that other applications rely on. For example, a human resources system may be the system of record for employee data, while an enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform may hold financial records. These systems are designed for accuracy, consistency and governance rather than speed or advanced analytics. In modern enterprises, data from systems of record is often fed into data platforms, analytics tools and AI applications, ensuring decisions are based on trusted and up-to-date information.

GOAL RUSH
TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

"IN THE LAST TOURNAMENT, WE WERE MISSING PLAYERS BECAUSE OF INJURIES. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE EVERYONE FULLY FIT THIS TIME. BUT WHETHER WE'RE ACTUALLY BETTER IS SOMETHING WE'LL HAVE TO PROVE"

—**RONALD KOEMAN**
THE NETHERLANDS COACH

CLASH OF GENERATIONS, ONCE AGAIN

Football universe will hope that if Argentina face France one more time, there's a final winner in the Mbappe-Messi duel, a rivalry that hasn't got as much traction as it should have had

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When the teenaged Leo Messi, wearing a No. 19 shirt, scored his first World Cup goal in 2006 against Serbia and Montenegro, Kylian Mbappe was a seven-year old putting up posters of Zinedine Zidane in his little room in Bondy, a working-class northeastern suburb of Paris.

Mbappe dreamt of becoming a footballer one day, but little did he know that in 20 years' time, he would be fighting Messi for the crown of the most-decorated international footballer of the 21st century. Messi, with four Champions League and seven Ballon D'Or titles in his kitty, is miles ahead of Mbappe in club football achievements. But when it comes to playing for the country, there's an element of symmetry to the two careers.

Both have played two World Cup finals, both have won the ultimate prize of football once, and success in the US will help them get inducted into an elite group of 21 who have won the World Cup twice — Pele being the only one to do it three times. That Messi has 13 World Cup goals, one more than Mbappe, adds that extra spice of rivalry to this contest with the Frenchman having a chance to go past the master in the US.

Messi and Mbappe weren't exactly meant to be rivals. There's an age gap of 11 years between the two and as the Argentine's closest competitor for large parts of his career was Cristiano Ronaldo, Mbappe's fight for the crown of the 'next big thing' was with Erling Haaland. The fact that Mbappe and Messi spent a couple of years of their careers in the same club — Paris St Germain — should have made their equation something close to a guru and disciple.

But the script didn't pan out that way. By the time Messi, after spending his best years in Barcelona, landed in PSG, Mbappe, as a lightning quick 18-year-old, had already run through Argentina in the 2018 World Cup, scoring twice, en route France's title triumph. And ahead of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, when Mbappe, a self-confessed Ronaldo fan, took a dig at South American football, saying it was "not developed enough" compared to Europe, Messi didn't take it well.

The genius didn't say anything in public and kept the anger brewing, taking it all out when France met Argentina in arguably the greatest World Cup final of all time. Messi's brace trumped Mbappe's hat-trick, and the Latin American giants' crazy celebrations, led by goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, made Mbappe look like a little boy whose candy had been stolen.

In the last four years, Messi and Mbappe have gone different ways. While the Argentine, at the fag end of his career, is enjoying the twilight at Inter Miami, Mbappe has chosen a more demanding Real Madrid route. Both have been the best players of their respective teams, but Messi's 90 goals in 104 games for the American club leaves him in a better space than Mbappe.

The 27-year-old Mbappe has done what he was brought in to do in Real, scoring 87 goals in 95 games, but the club's terrible drop in the last two years when they have gone trophyless has made life difficult for him. His lack of defensive contribution is one of the raging topics of discussion in world football, though that was never his forte. In addition, his reported not-too-comfortable relationship with some of his club mates is quite the opposite to Messi in Inter Miami, where he is surrounded by friends.

But things do change for Mbappe when he puts on the Les Bleus shirt. He is the revered captain of the team, but there's no over-dependence on the winger-turned-centre forward. Even if Mbappe is unavailable for a game or two, France have a Ballon D'Or winner in Ousmane Dembele and a host of extremely versatile players to take care of the situation.

Argentina, too, have come a long way from their overarching Messi-dependence. With the likes of Julian Alvaraz, Enzo Fernandez, Nico Paz, Alexis MacAllister shaping up into terrific players in their own right has allowed Messi the respite to work on his magic dust. So, when the news of Messi's muscle injury playing for Inter Miami came in last week, there wasn't any world-is-falling-apart feeling for the global Argentina fan club.

Given the quality and current form of the Latin American giants, they should be there in the business end of the World Cup. So should France, who have been one of the most consistent European teams in the last eight years. And the football universe will hope that the two teams get to face each other one more time so that there's a clear, final winner in this Mbappe-Messi duel — a proverbial clash of generations — a rivalry that hasn't got as much traction as it should have had.

Reuters

The French team poses with president Emmanuel Macron and wife Brigitte ahead of its departure for the World Cup on Tuesday

Getty Images

HOSTILITIES RENEWED: Success in the US will help both Kylian Mbappe (left) and Lionel Messi get inducted into an elite group of 21 who have won the World Cup twice

KNOW GROUP A

Country	Best finish	Path to finals
Mexico	**QF** (1970, 1986)	Automatic qualifiers as hosts
South Africa	**Group Stage** (1998, 2002, 2010)	Won CAF Group C ahead of Nigeria
South Korea	**Fourth Place** (2002) – the best finish by an Asian nation	Unbeaten winners of AFC Group B
Czechia	**Runners-up** (1934, 1962)	Survived two playoff penalty shootouts after finishing behind Croatia

THE MOZART OF FOOTBALL AND HIS MYSTERIOUS END

BACK PASS

Image AI

Before World Cups became global spectacles, Austria's greatest star was Matthias Sindelar, the elegant striker nicknamed "The Mozart of Football." After Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938, officials wanted him to become a symbol of the new regime. **Sindelar reportedly resisted, famously starring in a farewell match for Austria and celebrating a goal** in front of Nazi dignitaries. Months later, on Jan 23, 1939, he and his partner were found dead in their Vienna apartment from carbon monoxide poisoning. The official verdict was accidental, but rumours of Nazi involvement spread immediately. Nearly nine decades later, football's most haunting mystery remains unsolved.

SWISS FORWARD EMBOLO FACES VISA TROUBLE

Paris: Switzerland forward Breel Embolo will not travel with the squad to the US on Tuesday after his ESTA authorisation was placed under review, the Swiss federation said. "Unfortunately, Breel Embolo is currently unable to travel to the United States with the team," the Swiss federation said in a statement.

"His ESTA authorisation had been approved until this morning. However, at 10:30 a.m., we were informed that his ESTA application had been placed under further review. We are currently in contact with the relevant authorities and expect that Breel will either join the team later today or travel tomorrow and join the squad then."

SOTHEBY'S TO AUCTION PELE'S 1958 WC JERSEY

London: The jersey worn by late football legend Pele during Brazil's 1958 World Cup victory will headline an auction set to coincide with this year's tournament, Sotheby's announced on Tuesday.

Pele, then just 17 years old, scored two of Brazil's five goals in the 1958 final against host nation Sweden.

Sotheby's said in a press release that the No. 10 jersey is estimated to sell for over $6 million in the auction. Pele gave his 1958 jersey to teammate and friend Dida, whose family held on to it for decades before it was placed in a museum and eventually auctioned off in 2004.

NZ FOOTBALLER'S VIRAL FAN CLUB HITS 4 MILLION

Auckland: New Zealand footballer Tim Payne's online fan club soared past four million on Tuesday, more than the All Blacks, after an influencer picked him out as the "least known" player at the World Cup. Argentine social media giant Valen Scarsini, known as "El Scarso", last week called for his fans to boost unheralded Payne's following, kicking off an online explosion of interest. But New Zealand's coach said the unexpected fame -- Payne had just 4,000 Instagram followers a week ago -- won't go to the head of the Wellington Phoenix right-back.

SOFT LANDING: Brazil's Neymar arrives in Newark

IRAN SQUAD TO HEAD FOR MEXICO VIA SPAIN

Tehran: Iran will leave for Spain this weekend en route to their World Cup base in Mexico despite still awaiting visas, the head of the country's football federation said on Monday. Neither the United States, where Iran will play their three group stage matches, nor Mexico, where the team will be based throughout the tournament, have yet issued visas for the players.

"We will leave for Spain on Saturday, and from there the team will go directly to Tijuana in Mexico," football federation chief Mehdi Taj said.

COACHES CAN USE LAPTOPS

New York: After Mauricio Pochettino gathered his players around a laptop computer to watch a tactical video during a friendly on Sunday, the US coach admitted he wasn't sure he'd be allowed to do that in the World Cup. According to a report from The Athletic on Monday, Pochettino and any other technologically inclined coaches will be permitted to use laptops at all times during matches. AGENCIES

SPANISH MAYOR BANS DR CONGO FRIENDLY DUE TO EBOLA FEARS

Madrid: A pre-World Cup friendly between DR Congo has been cancelled by the mayor of the Spanish town La Linea de la Concepcion hosting the match over health concerns regarding the Ebola outbreak in the African country. "I have signed the decree banning the holding of the June 9 match between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chile," said mayor Juan Franco. AFP

How Kerala boy Tahsin took flight with Qatar

▶ Continued from P1

Unlike full citizenship, the mission passport is limited in scope and does not provide the broader social rights, permanent status, or financial benefits available to Qatari nationals.

Jamshid is from Thalassery, while his wife Shaima hails from Valapattanam in Kannur district. The family moved to Qatar years ago seeking better opportunities, but Jamshid carried his love for football with him.

"Tahsin's biggest strength is that he can play on both wings and can also be used as a striker. He has an extraordinary dribbling ability and is aggressive inside the box," the proud father said.

Tahsin's progress accelerated through Qatar's Aspire Football Academy. The young midfielder drew attention in 2021 when he broke into Qatar's Under-16 national team. He then moved up to the Under-17 squad and continued his development at Al Duhail, the powerhouse of Qatar Stars League. He was also part of the Qatar U-17 side that played India's youth team during an exposure tour in 2023.

After impressing at the AFC U-20 Asian Cup in China, he made his senior debut for Qatar in a World Cup qualifier against Afghanistan in June 2024.

For Tahsin, the selection to Qatar's World Cup squad is almost as if realising his father's own fervent dream, as his own football journey shaped his son's path. A former Calicut University player, he became Tahsin's first coach and mentor, introducing him to the game early and guiding his development.

Jamshid's own playing career was promising. He represented the Kerala sub-junior team in 1985 and later progressed through junior and youth levels, playing alongside former India international Jo Paul Anchery. However, his rise was cut short when an injury forced him to retire at just 25.

However, the setback did not diminish Jamshid's commitment to football. After moving to Qatar, he continued to stay close to the sport while working at a private company in Doha. In his free time, he accompanied Tahsin and his elder brother, Michelle, to the football grounds and kept an eye on their structured training.

Ronaldo eyes one last dance

Cristiano Ronaldo has bent football's record books into so many shapes that another landmark can almost feel routine but a sixth World Cup at 41 would be extraordinary even by his standards.

The 2026 tournament is set to add another stop to Ronaldo's long and often bruising World Cup journey, one that began in Germany in 2006 and has wound through South Africa, Brazil, Russia and Qatar without delivering the prize he has chased.

Only Lionel Messi is poised to match him for appearances at six World Cups, another twist in a rivalry that has stretched from Real Madrid vs Barcelona to Ballon d'Or ceremonies and now into football's deepest archive.

Messi has eight Ballon d'Or awards, Ronaldo five. Both are still making room for new chapters in their amazing stories.

For Ronaldo, the World Cup has been the one stage that has never fully bent to his will. His best run came in 2006, when Portugal reached the semifinals before losing to France. Since then there have been two round-of-16 exits, a quarterfinal defeat and a grim group-stage departure in Brazil in 2014. This time they face Democratic Republic of Congo, debutants Uzbekistan plus Colombia in Group K.

Qatar 2022 looked like the end of his World Cup journey. Ronaldo arrived amid the noise of his Manchester United exit, scored and was dropped by then-coach Fernando Santos for the knockout win over Switzerland after a 2-1 loss to South Korea.

Instead, he has returned under former Belgium manager Roberto Martinez with the persistence of a man who treats Father Time as just another marker to shrug off. REUTERS

In Uzbek's maiden finals, Cannavaro & govt play in defence

Uzbekistan's qualification for their first World Cup marks the high point to date of a steady climb to the upper reaches of the global game in the 35 years since gaining independence from the former Soviet Union.

Since Jan last year, Manchester City's Abdukodir Khusanov has become the internationally recognised face of the nation following his move to the Premier League, boosting the profile of one of Asia's growing powers. The 22-year-old central defender embodies the impact a series of government-backed initiatives have had on the sport in the country, yielding a growing crop of talented players ready to perform on the biggest stage.

"Uzbekistan's qualification for the FIFA World Cup is a defining moment not just for football, but for sport and national identity across our country," Otabek Umarov, the first vice president of Uzbekistan's Olympic committee, said.

"As the first Central Asian nation to reach the World Cup, this achievement unites 38 million people in shared pride and joy."

Khusanov and his Uzbekistan team mates have benefited significantly from government investment in footballing infrastructure, with mini pitches constructed across the nation and around 15,000 school grounds undergoing renovation.

A network of dedicated football schools has also been established that supports the development of more than 65,000 young players while plans are in place for a new 55,000-capacity stadium, the largest in the country.

"Every Uzbekistani som (local currency) spent has been part of a coherent, long-term strategy, and the results speak for themselves," said Umarov. "From World Cup qualification and a Premier League player in Abdukodir Khusanov, to a 13th-place finish at the Paris 2024 Olympics."

> **"Every Uzbekistani som (local currency) spent has been part of a coherent, long-term strategy, and the results speak for themselves. From World Cup qualification and a Premier League player in Abdukodir Khusanov, to a 13th-place finish at the Paris 2024 Olympics."**
>
> —**Otabek Umarov**
> FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN'S OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

- Mini pitches constructed across the nation and around 15,000 school grounds undergoing renovation.
- A network of dedicated football schools has also been established that supports the development of more than 65,000 young players.

Coached by World Cup winner Fabio Cannavaro, Uzbekistan will begin their maiden campaign against Colombia before facing DR Congo and Portugal with Umarov confident qualification will provide further momentum for the sport's growth. "Playing in the World Cup will inspire millions of young people, not only in Uzbekistan, but across Central Asia and in Uzbek communities around the world," he said. "This celebration of sport will inspire future generations to get active, live healthily and ultimately improve lifestyles in our country for years to come.

"We have one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations on the planet, which means that we will not only benefit from new generations of young athletes, but also from young men and women who want to be involved off the pitch." REUTERS

SNAP SHOTS

TOI

A Virat Kohli fan holds a placard during the IPL final between RCB and GT on Sunday

Bahutule named coach

Former India leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule was on Tuesday appointed as the spin bowling coach of the men's national team, having worked in the India U-19 and India 'A' set-up. Bahutule, who represented India in two Tests and eight ODIs, was seen in the Punjab Kings jersey in the IPL.

Auqib, Prince among 6 picked as net bowlers: Jammu and Kashmir seamer Auqib Nabi Dar, whose non-selection in the Indian Test squad invited widespread criticism, has been summoned by the team management along with five others to bowl in the nets ahead of the one-off Test against Afghanistan starting June 6. Besides Auqib, UP leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari, has also been asked to bowl in the nets. The other players called are spinner Shivang Kumar, pacer Gurjapneet Singh, Prince Yadav, and off-spinner Saransh Jain.

Flintoff named head coach: England cricket legend Andrew Flintoff was named on Tuesday as head coach of the Sydney Thunder, the Big Bash League team said, hailing it as their "most significant off-field acquisition in club history". The 48-year-old has signed a two-year deal for what will be his first overseas coaching role.

Lalthantluangi, Dabas earn maiden call-ups: Young defenders Lalthantluangi and Shilpi Dabas will once again be a part of Salima Tete-led national team which will take part in the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup New Zealand scheduled to begin in Auckland from June 15.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Savita, Bichu Devi. **Defenders:** Sushila Chanu, Ishika Chaudhary, Lalthantluangi, Shilpi Dabas, Jyoti, Nikki Pradhan. **Midfielders:** Salima Tete (c), Neha, Sunelita Toppo, Sakshi Rana, Deepika Soreng, Sonam, Lalremsiami. **Forwards:** Navneet Kaur, Deepika, Rutuja Dadaso Pisal, Ishika, Annu.

Taekema to hold special camp: Legendary Dutch dragflicker Taeke Taekema has joined the senior Indian women's hockey team for a specialised training camp focused on dragflicking and penalty-corner execution during the ongoing tour of Australia and New Zealand. Taekema has been brought in to further sharpen the skills of dragflickers as the Indian team prepares for the FIH Nations Cup, scheduled to take place in New Zealand from June 15 to 21, under its chief coach Sjoerd Marijne.

Atiqa wins in Greece: Eleven-year-old Atiqa Mir came up with a dominant performance in Round 2 of the Champions of the Future Academy Program in Thessaloniki, Greece. The Indian made a clean sweep of qualifying, heat races and the finals.

Hindustan Friends Club triumph: Hindustan Friends Club eased to a 4-1 win over Karnataka Forest Department in the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Result: Hindustan Friends Club 4 (Anand Y 5, Hariharan M 15, 24, 33) bt Karnataka Forest Department 1 (Dharsan 49).

Today's matches: Falcon HC vs Karnataka Forest Department (1.15 pm); Hindustan Friends HC vs Bengaluru Blues HC (2.45 pm).

Serena returns, but why?

The 44-Year-Old's Comeback Has Dressing Room Excited

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Getty Images

BACK TO BUSINESS: Serena Williams will partner Victoria Mboko

Paris: Serena Williams is returning to tennis after nearly four years. The sport has changed in her absence, but the gravitational pull she exerts has not and that leaves one question hanging over everything. Why?

The 44-year-old, winner of 23 Grand Slams, has entered the doubles draw at the WTA 500 event in London, starting June 8. She'll partner the 19-year-old Victoria Mboko. Beyond that, little is known. There has been no confirmation of what comes next, whether Wimbledon, where she won seven singles titles, or whether doubles is

TENNIS

merely a stepping stone toward a return to singles competition later in the season.

Williams has little left to prove. She remains the only player to complete a career Golden Slam in both singles and doubles, and her legacy was secure long before she stepped away from the sport. That is why her return invites so much intrigue. It is difficult to imagine an athlete of her stature coming back simply to play doubles. Though the prospect of one final Olympic appearance, this time in her backyard in Los Angeles, is undeniably compelling, it is unlikely to be the force driving her return.

If there is a larger objective, it is likely to be singles. Yet the landscape she left behind has changed dramatically. The depth of the women's game is greater than ever, and nearly eight years have passed since her last major title at the 2017 Australian Open, won while she was in the very early stages of her first pregnancy.

The locker room is excited for Williams' return.

Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva said, "I didn't believe until the very last post, then I was, like, 'Wow, this is real then!'" Naomi Osaka, who beat Williams in the 2018 US Open final, when the American returned from her maternity break, said, "It's good for me, I'll be very entertained. I think it will bring people to watch tennis, which she always does, bring an audience with her. I'm going to be tuned into the first match, for sure." World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka, who faced Williams once in Australia five years ago, said, "It's inspiring to see, I'm actually excited to see her play and probably face her."

Elina Svitolina, 31, who has made a remarkable comeback after pregnancy, said, "Serena is a very unique situation, she is like Roger Federer. Just a different level of GOAT. It's a great story and very inspiring for all moms around the world."

Williams didn't officially retire from tennis, preferring to call it 'evolving away'.

Part of the intrigue surrounding Williams' return is that it follows a period of profound physical change. Last year she disclosed that she was using the GLP-1 drug Zepbound after finding it difficult to lose weight following the birth of her second daughter.

Williams built one of the most dominant careers in tennis history on explosive power, a devastating serve and the ability to move with remarkable speed for an athlete of her build. Significant weight loss can sometimes come with a reduction in muscle mass, leaving open the question of how her new physique will affect the attributes that formed the foundation of her game.

MIRRA REFLECTION

'Better Prepared' 19-Yr-Old Brushes Aside Sorana To Make Semis After Two Years

THE TIMES OF INDIA AT ROLAND GARROS

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AP

TEEN STAR: Mirra Andreeva

Mirra Andreeva roared into the Roland-Garros semifinals, putting out Sorana Cirstea under the roof at Court Philippe-Chatrier on a rain-hit Tuesday.

The 19-year-old eighth seed, who had a meltdown in the last-eight 12 months ago, succumbing to the unheralded Lois Boisson before a wildly cheering home crowd, was in charge

FRENCH OPEN

right from the word go to score a 6-0, 6-3 win. Andreeva, who made her first semifinal here two years ago, said she was better prepared to handle whatever came her way from her opponent or the crowd this time.

"I feel like this year here in Paris the crowd was not really against me like that," she said. "If that would happen again, I feel like it would be a little bit easier for me to handle, I would know how to fix the things." Andreeva will go up against her conqueror in the final of the Madrid 1000 Marta Kostyuk for a place in the final.

Kostyuk extended her winning streak to 17 matches after moving past Elina Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 to make her maiden Grand Slam semi-final.

Svitolina, who was also riding a wave of 10 consecutive clay-court victories, couldn't do much when Kostyuk powered through the last three games for the loss of just two points.

Meanwhile, second seeded Alexander Zverev survived an early scare, rallying from 2-5 in the opening set to score a 7-6(3), 6-1, 6-3 victory over Spanish teenager Rafael Jodar and move into the semifinals. The German will go up against the winner of the quarterfinal that pits Brazilian Joao Fonseca against Czech Jakub Mensik.

CWG hopeful and national record holder Deeksha fails dope test

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Women's 1500m national record holder K M Deeksha has tested positive for a banned substance, with sources indicating the presence of stanozolol. The 27-year-old, a National Games silver medallist, last competed at the Indian Open Athletics Series in Jaipur on April 5, clocking 4:25.74. She skipped the Federation Cup in Ranchi, a key Commonwealth Games qualifier, and now faces the prospect of missing Glasgow 2026. Meanwhile, in another development, India continues to top the Athletics Integrity Unit's (AIU) list of ineligible athletes with 154 suspensions, ahead of Kenya (147) and Russia (65).

ISL clubs propose new two-year pilot model

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Panaji: Indian Super League (ISL) clubs have proposed the implementation of a two-year club-led league pilot model with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) receiving Rs 15 crore annually for the commercial rights of the top tier league.

The fresh proposal, emailed to AIFF deputy secretary general M Satyanarayan earlier this week, tops the Rs 12.4 crore that Genius Sports has assured to pay as administrative fees for the 2026-27

FOOTBALL

season, and attempts to find a middle ground in stalled talks with the governing body.

Through the pilot project, the clubs want to stabilise the league, improve commercial performance, increase stakeholder alignment, and maximise the long-term value of Indian football before any future strategic transaction is contemplated. "The clubs believe that the current market conditions do not accurately reflect the intrinsic value and future growth potential of ISL," FC Goa CEO Ravi Puskur said in an email on behalf of the clubs. "Entering into a long-term equity or rights transaction at today's valuations risks permanently undervaluing one of Indian sport's most important assets." Significantly, the fresh proposal comes after a series of meetings between a few club owners in Mumbai. Clubs said they were assured that the federation would summon them for a meeting on Thursday but till late on Tuesday there was no confirmation.

Between 2010 and 2025, the AIFF received Rs 50 crore annually from Reliance-owned FSDL, its erstwhile commercial partners, while the Genius proposal allocates 20% of its bid money or approx. Rs 12.4 crore in the first year. The federation hopes to cover the deficit by charging top-tier clubs an entry fee, a proposal that has not found favour with the clubs.

In a separate email, also seen by TOI, clubs have clarified that none of them are willing to pay the Rs 1 crore participation fee under a model – which has found favour with AIFF -- where Genius would have the commercial rights.

Sindhu advances; Srikanth, Sen exit

Jakarta: Two-time Olympic medallist **PV Sindhu** battled her way into the second round of the Indonesia Open with a straight-game win, but it was curtains for former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen after they suffered an opening-round exit here on Tuesday.

Sindhu was made to work hard by Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan before prevailing 25-23, 21-16 in a 51-minute women's

BADMINTON

singles opening round of the Super 1000 badminton tournament. The unseeded Indian is now likely to face reigning Olympic champion and world No. 1 An Se-young, whom she had lost to in the quarterfinals last week in Singapore.

However, it was a disappointing day for Srikanth, who bowed out after a 19-21, 15-21 defeat to Japan's Yushi Tanaka in the men's singles opening round. Sen, who exited in the quarterfinals of the Singapore Open, bowed out in the opening round here losing 19-21, 16-21 to Alwi Farhan of Indonesia. PTI

'Our shuttlers need to be consistent'

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TOI

STRAIGHT TALK: Prakash Padukone

Bengaluru: It has been a mixed 2026 for top Indian shuttlers in the BWF circuit. While Lakshya Sen and Ayush Shetty claimed runner-up finishes at the All England Open and the Badminton Asia Championships respectively, the likes of HS Prannoy and PV Sindhu are yet to reach a final. Devika Sihag bagged her maiden BWF World Tour title – Thailand Masters in Feb. On Sunday, the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty ended their two-year title drought winning the Singapore Open title.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

Badminton legend Prakash Padukone believes that the country's shuttlers have it in them to produce much more consistent results. "They (Indian shuttlers) are doing well currently, but they can do much better. They need to be much more consistent. Considering the support they get – top players have a coach, a physio, a strength and conditioning coach, nutritionist, sparring player, so they go with a big entourage," said the former All England champion. "Considering this (support), they should not be satisfied with one title. They need to sit with their coaches and see how they can win more tournaments, not just one in six months or one in two years."

Of the top shuttlers, Sindhu has been a disappointment in the last couple of years. Since 2023, Sindhu's only triumph has been the Syed Modi International (Super 300 event) in 2024. To be fair, knee, hamstring and foot injuries have troubled the 30-year-old champion.

"She is playing well, but one should also remember her age. I am not suggesting that she can't win any tournament, but as you get older, youngsters are also coming up. So it is not easy to maintain the same level of fitness, the same level of commitment and then there is more competition. It becomes tougher as you get older, so she needs to find the right way of training," Padukone said on the sidelines of an event where Padukone School of Badminton announced their partnership with a finance company to boost grassroots talent across India.

'GO THE CRICKET WAY'

With the 3x15 scoring system approved, it is set to be introduced from Jan next year. The current format consists of best-of-three games to 21 points, and Padukone believes both systems can coexist, much like cricket's three formats — T20s, ODIs and Test matches.

"What I would ideally like is something similar to cricket. They (BWF) can have both the 21 and 15 point format, why not try? In cricket, you have 20 overs, 50 overs and Test matches. Why can't we have (both formats) in badminton? Don't discard it completely. Players have played a particular format for 10, 15 years and they are used to it, let that continue. Introduce another without disrupting the existing system, see if that is possible," he said.

Prathyusha's ton drives Palar SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Prathyusha Challuru scored a fine 103 off 50 balls as Palar Sports Club, Kolar, beat Young Lions Club by 183 runs in the KSCA Senior Women's T20 tournament here recently.

Batting first, Palar SC scored 258/6 in 20 overs. Prathyusha led the charge

WOMEN'S T20

with a fine century. Vrinda Dinesh gave her good support, smashing 67 from just 20 balls. Nithya was the best bowler for Young Lions Club with 3/36. Young Lions found it difficult to score and finished on 75/8 in 20 overs.

Brief scores: Palar SC: 258/6 in 20 overs (Myra Jain 38, Prathyusha Challuru 103 (50b; 16x4, 2x6), Vrinda Dinesh 67; Nithya 3-36) bt **Young Lions Club: 75/8 in 20 overs** (Saina Kapoor 2-13, Sakshi Munavalli 2-11, BG Tejashwini 2-9).

South End SC: 133/8 in 20 overs (Savi CS 26; Aarushi Sutar 3-17) bt **Sir Syed Cricketers: 119/7 in 20 overs** (Vianna D'Souza 26; Harshitha Shekar 2-23).

Visweswarapuram CC (2): 97/6 in 20 overs (Tanushree Ijeri 65; Lavanya M 3-10) lost to **Swastic Union CC (1): 98/5 in 17.1 overs** (Rakshitha R 28).

Friends Union CC (2): 125/1 in 20 overs (Angelica Pinto 37, Thejaswini Kumar 46) bt **Dooravani Cricketers (1): 120/6 in 20 overs** (G Sai Pranavi 3-10). **Coles CC: 200/4 in 20 overs** (Sruthi M 77, Rakshita Moondra 51) bt **Cavaliers CC: 44/7 in 20 overs** (Rakshita Moondra 3-9). **Swastic Union CC (2): 164/3 in 20 overs** (Nandani Chauhan 67, Saloni P 54; Keerthi KC 3-27) bt **Whirlwind Cricketers: 65 in 19.2 overs** (Veda Varshini 3-9, Yashika Gowda 2-8, Sirisha R 2-11, Nuha Harish 2-30).

Coaches tend to focus on boys: Bibisara

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FIDE

Oslo (Norway): **Bibisara Assaubayeva** of Kazakhstan feels that though women chess players in general suffered due to lack of self belief, the key reason for the qualitative difference between male and female players is probably something else altogether.

CHESS

The three-time Women's World Blitz champion, world No. 4, told TOI that more boys played the 64-square game than the girls. "That and coaches usually focusing more on the boys also makes it harder for girls. More so to be in the top layer."

Bibisara (12.5 points) defeated Zhu Jiner, her seventh win in the last eight meetings against the Chinese, to take a 2.5-point lead. With three rounds remaining, she is well placed to win the Norway elite title and pocket the top prize of 700,000 NOK (more than Rs 70 lakh) — on par with the men's winner.

The 22-year-old probably cannot complain from not being helped by men. Her good friend Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan, who will challenge D Gukesh for the world crown, is here to help her. Plus, she has also received guidance from his coach and IM Roman Vidonyak for more than a year.

Bibisara also got a taste of high-level chess when she played against strong male players in the Las Vegas leg of the Freestyle tour last year. She lost six of her seven games (drawing only with Sindarov). "It was not easy but an interesting and tough experience," she said.

Bibisara claims she was invited for the Vegas event (Sindarov was also playing there) after she withdrew from the Women's World Cup which was played concurrently. Her withdrawal "due to playing non-stop chess" was surprising as the World Cup was a qualification event for the Candidates and she played Lag Vegas anyway. She eventually qualified for the Candidates on the basis of FIDE Circuit points and finished second behind R Vaishali in Cyprus. Sindarov went all the way and won the event. Bibisara's win over Jiner on Monday with white pieces was noteworthy for her aggressive play despite some opening trouble. She took her king to the centre and that helped her grab Jiner's knight for free for a classical win.

SUMMARY R7:

* D Gukesh (8) is at the bottom of the standings. The Indian GM missed the classical win against Wesley So (12.5) before winning the Armageddon. * R Praggnanandhaa (9) scored a classical win over Alireza Firouzja (10). * Magnus Carlsen (9) could only draw with black in the Armageddon vs Vincent Keymer (9) * Divya Deshmukh (10) failed to floor K Humpy (6.5) in classical. Won the Armageddon * Ju Wenjun (9) suffered from blunders against Anna Muzychuk (9.5). (TOI correspondent Karmarkar is in Oslo on the invitation of Norway Chess)

Blasters vs Mystics in Maharaja opener

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Blasters will take on Gulbarga Mystics in the opening match of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 in Mysuru on June 20. It will be followed by the clash between debutant Shivamogga Yodhas and Mysore Warriors.

Coastal Kings Mangaluru, another new franchise, will make their tournament debut

T20 TOURNEY

against Hubli Tigers on the second day. The fifth edition of the competition will be held across Mysuru (12 matches), Hubballi (12) and Bengaluru (10) with the final scheduled on July 12 here. The tournament starts with the Mysuru leg (June 20-26), followed by Hubballi (June 27-July 3). The final phase, including the two qualifiers, eliminator and the final, will be held in Bengaluru.

AUCTION ON JUNE 5

The six participating franchises will be involved at the players' auction on June 5 in Bengaluru, where more than 150 players will go under the hammer. TNN

The Bengaluru leg

July 5: Bengaluru Blasters vs Mysore Warriors (2.30 pm); Shivamogga Yodhas vs Hubli Tigers (7 pm) **July 6:** Tigers vs Mangaluru (2.30 pm); Gulbarga Mystics vs Blasters (7 pm) **July 7:** Warriors vs Yodhas (7 pm) **July 8:** Mangaluru vs Mystics (7 pm) **July 9:** Eliminator (2.30 pm); Qualifier 1 (7 pm) **July 10:** Qualifier 2 (7 pm) **July 12:** Final (7 pm).

Amazing Imrarifa fancied for feature

Mysuru: Amazing Imrarifa, trained by Mansoor Khan and piloted by Vivek, holds the edge in a big field of 12 runners for the Varahi Trophy. The feature race of the day will be run over a distance of 1,200 metres here on Wednesday.

1. The Balamuri Plate (Div. II) 1400M: Alluring Beauty 1, Rich Strike 2. **2. The Prince Regent Plate 1100M:** Aviothic 1, King Scarface 2. **3. The Balamuri Plate (Div. I) 1400M:** Perfect Heart 1, Carolina Springs 2. **4. The Kolar Plate (Div. II) 1400M:** Sands Of Dubai 1, Krishvi 2. **5. The Red Satin Plate 1200M:** Vandhiyathevan 1, Constant Variable 2. **6. The Varahi Trophy 1200M:** Amazing Imrarifa 1, River of Gold 2. **7. The Kolar Plate (Div. I) 1400M:** Cosette 1, Polar Wind 2. **8. The Nagamangala Plate 1400M:** Prince Corporate 1, Natural Tornado 2.

Day's best: Sands of Dubai. **Jackpot**: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. **Mini Jackpot:** 5, 6, 7 & 8. **First Treble**: 1, 2 & 3. **Second Treble**: 3, 4 & 5. **Third Treble:** 6, 7 & 8. TNN

Omkar's six-wicket haul powers Cambridge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Omkar HR dazzled with a six-wicket haul to power Cambridge Cricket Club to a 10-wicket victory over Zodiac Cricket Club in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy here recently.

Batting first, Zodiac CC folded up for 41 in 14.3 overs. Omkar led the attack with figures of 6/15, while Rohan N lent apt support, pocketing a three-wicket haul. In reply, Cambridge CC cantered home in 8.1 overs without losing a wicket.

Brief scores: Zodiac CC: 41 in 14.4 overs (Rohan N 3-25, Omkar HR 6-15) lost to **Cambridge CC: 42 for no loss in 8.1 overs**.

Chintamani SA: 134 in 31.2 overs (Aaron Christie 73, Pranav Babu 28; Pranav Bhatia 4-30) lost to **Rajajinagar Cricketers: 138/6 in 16.3 overs** (Sireesh Balgaar 26; Abhishek HP 4-49).

City Gymkhana: 76 in 16.4 overs (Rahul Shetty 4-10, Nihal Gowda 3-10) lost to **Whirlwind Cricketers: 77/1 in 7.2 overs** (Bhuvan Vishwanth 47, Shrikara 25 n.o.).

Friends Union CC (1): 172 in 26.4 overs (Shishir R 51, Saideep HJ 46; Udgeet Nandan 3-31) lost to **Vijaya CC, Malur: 175/8 in 29 overs** (Vijay KA 31, Udgeet 35 n.o; Sidharth Akhil 3-26).

Bangalore SC: 93/8 in 34 overs (Naman GD 4-22, Shreesha Achar 3-7) lost to **Bangalore Occasionals: 96/2 in 13.2 overs** (Suraj Ahuja 35 n.o, Rajvir Wadhwa 51 n.o; Anirudha Joshi 2-45).

Hammonds CC: 118/3 in 20 overs (KS Bharath 70 n.o.) lost to **Mount Joy CC: 140/7 in 19.1 overs** (Samarth Srinivas 39 n.o; Vikas MN 2-19).

Jayanagar United Cricketers: 171 in 49.2 overs (Tejaswy Kolchippu 36, Sunil Kaushik 29; Sandeep Agri 3-34) lost to **Crescent CC (1): 174/4 in 30.5 overs** (Syed Uddin 51, Anoop Gandhi 59 n.o, Shahid Ali 37 n.o; Sunil 2-18). **Bangalore Star CA: 291 in 47.5 overs** (Deepak 78, Akhil Rao 46, Tanmay Vikas 50, Chethankl 40; Manuveer Mahajan 4-50, Nagaraja G 3-65) bt **Visweswarampuram CC (2): 164 in 38.1 overs** (Kushal Keshav 37, Barath C 52; Kishore S 3-25).

Social Cricketers: 172 in 42.2 overs (Rohan N 72; Sheetal Kumar 4-29) lost to **Jayanagar Cricketers: 176/6 in 39.1 overs** (S Chaitanya 31, Saharsh Reddy 47, Rithvik H 49 n.o; Anmol Mathur 2-30, Shreevathsa Acharya 2-43).

Visweswarampuram CC (1): 249 in 47.4 overs (Nishith Raj 74, Harshil Arigala 56, Vikram PS 50; Nischith Rao 4-40, Krushna Rao 3-50) lost to **Swastic Union CC (1): 251/6 in 43.1 overs** (Jasper EJ 45, Prakhar Chaturvedi 69, Nitish Arya 43, Pavandeep Bharadakane 44; Hardhik Chandra 2-48).

On Monday: Palar SC, Kolar: 332/4 in 50 overs (Chiranth D 61, Preetesh 76, Ritesh Bhatkal 113, Abhijit S 36; Ishaan S 2-53) bt **Jawans CC: 242 in 41.1 overs** (Karthik SU 65, Likith Gowda 59, Pratheek 38; Ritesh 3-44).

Friends CT: 128 in 50 overs (Vaishnav Sanghamiitra 55; Pranav Bhatia 3-18) lost to **Rajajinagar Cricketers: 132/2 in 16.3 overs** (Sireesh Balgaar 72, Rushi 31, Raghavendra Rao 2-41).

Minerva CC: 319/8 in 50 overs (Arnav Bharadwaj 35, Darshan R 77, Smaran Ramesh 90, Naveen Bala 51; Pemmaraju Sai 2-69, Aditya V 2-38, Abhishek R 2-60) bt **Wilson Garden CC: 144 in 30.5 overs** (Amogh R 2-32, Kushal Gouda 2-18, Karthik J 2-0).

Herons CC: 308 in 48.4 overs (Prajwal Pavan 93, Aditya Mani 33, Jayanth MR 60; Pradeeep G 4-52) bt **South End SC: 160 in 43.3 overs** (Nagarjun TM 58, Hemanth Kumar 54; Kushal Pramesh 3-13). **Bangalore Star CA: 135 in 25.2 overs** (Anurag Bajpai 25, Tanmay Vikas 42; Asif Ali 3-28, Yaseer Naikwadi 3-36) bt **Jolly Cricketers: 129 in 28.4 overs** (Chirag Harsha 31; Kishore S 3-34).

Young Lions Club: 276/8 in 50 overs (Dheeraj Yadav 46, Nikhil 97, Swaroop 34; Kedarnath Todakar 3-58) bt **Hammonds CC: 274 in 50 overs** (Vishruth Krishna 36, M Kishore 37, Satyam Goudar 80, Sanjay Raja 35; Swaroop 3-49).

Swastic Union CC (2): 294/6 in 50 overs (Vijaya Raj 52, Ravi Reddy 46, Vishal Onat 36, Aneeshwar Gautam 75, Srthan V 38; Neel Jain 2-32, Anirudh Deepak 2-45) bt **Yankees CC: 209/7 in 50 overs** (K Akhil 41, Shiv R 29, Dhruv Rao 63, Nitin Reddy 35; Vinayak Holla 3-17).

Lions CC: 94 in 25 overs (Yogesh BS 2-22, SK Rathod 6-33) lost to **Engrades CC: 95/4 in 14 overs** (Hemanth Patil 35; R Chandrasekaran 2-45). **Modern CC: 280/7 in 50 overs** (Vishnu Priyan 46, Prithvi Sadanand 102, Ansh Aima 36; Vivaan Singh 2-45, Shivohum Gupta 2-59, Vastvik Sharma 2-55) bt **Spartons SC: 170 in 40.2 overs** (Shaurya Tandon 35, Harshith Raj 32; Rohiet 3-40).

Star SC, Nelamangala: 210 in 49.3 overs (Hanumantharaju 57, Aaryan Nagesh 68; Ajith R 4-42) lost to **Jawahar SC (2): 212/5 in 35.1 overs** (Shatak Gunjal 36, Ajith 110).

Sapphire CC: 281 in 47.3 overs (Ravikumar M 49, Jeevan JV 62, Krishang Rao 38, Arsh Arora 52; Gaurav MV 4-32, Rizwan Pasha 3-44) lost to **Malleswaram United: 282/5 in 41.5 overs** (Dheemanth KM 53, Yashwanth Patel 81, Punith HA 62). **Neptune CC: 81 in 18.5 overs** (Athreya M 30; Virender 5-25, Agastya S 3-32) lost to **Vijaya CC: 84/1 in 9.3 overs** (Tushar Singh 59).

Chamarajpet CC: 99 in 28.4 overs (Nakul Swamy 46; Dushyanth Venkat 3-17, Naman GD 4-6) lost to **Bangalore Occasionals: 105/1 in 8.3 overs** (Bhuvan Raju 45, Niranjan 56).

B'lore Wanderers coast to victory

Bangalore Wanderers FC registered a 2-0 win over Maharaja Socials FC in the BDFA 'C' Division League football tournament in Bengaluru on Tuesday. While Murali D netted the opener in the 22nd minute, Manish S doubled the lead in the 54th minute. In another Group 1 contest, Indiranagar FC handed Misaka United FC a 1-0 defeat.

Results: Group 1: Bangalore Wanderers FC 2 (Murali D 22, Manish S 54) bt Maharaja Socials FC 0; Indiranagar FC 1 (Tony Infant Raj G 26) bt Misaka United FC 0. **Group 2:** Bangalore Reds FC 4 (Nanda Kumar 28, T Jeevan Sai Yadav 30, Kishore A 40, 43) bt Bangalore Muslims FC 1 (Nandakumar 46-og); Jai Bharath Nagar FC 4 (Sathvik S 14, 77, Vijin N Vishwambaram 40, Hemanth BC 58) bt Town SC Hoskote FC 0. **Group 3:** Rovers FC 2 (Eromiya Francis 11, 28) bt SIS ABWS FC 0. **Group 4:** Konkan FC 2 (Govind Raj S 46, Suresh 58) bt JP Sports FC 1 (Siddaruda M 40). TNN

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin vows its New Glenn rocket "will fly again before the end of this year" after a ground test last week ended in a massive fireball, gutting the launch pad

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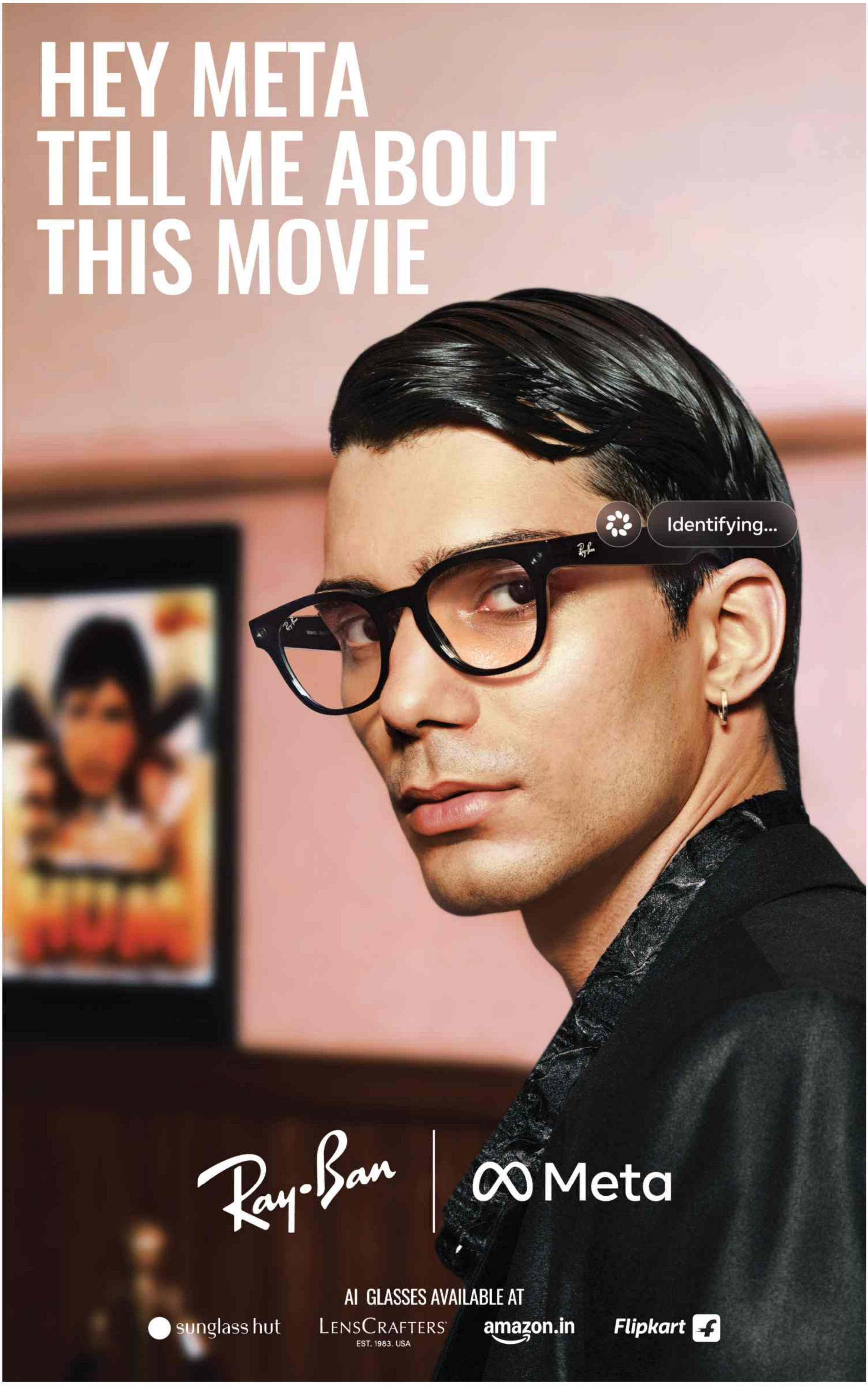

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THE TIMES

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UK MP RUPERT LOWE REIGNITES DEBATE OVER 'GROOMING GANGS' SCANDAL AFTER AN EMOTIONAL SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT 14

DK Shivakumar to open CM stint with 8 populist schemes

Oath At 4.10pm Today; Siddaramaiah Appointed To CWC

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Bengaluru: DK Shivakumar is expected to announce eight populist schemes, particularly focused on farmers and women, soon after taking oath as chief minister Wednesday afternoon. This is seen as an early effort to shape governance agenda and define the policy direction of his govt.

Shivakumar, 64, will take oath as chief minister of Karnataka at 4.10pm at glass house in Lok Bhavan, marking the formal transition of leadership within the Congress govt. He was elected leader of Congress Legislature Party in Karnataka on May 30.

▶FULL COVERAGE, P 2

Around 15 ministers are expected to be sworn in in the first phase of cabinet formation, while the remaining are likely after the June 18 Rajya Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, Congress is understood to have decided to nominate Mallikarjuna Kharge and Mansoor Ali Khan for its Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka. For the third seat from the state, the party is considering national leaders — either Supriya Shrinate or Pawan Khera — sources said.

Party functionaries said the DKS's proposed initiatives are structured around agricultural distress, rural incomes and productivity, and are likely to emerge as flagship programmes of the Shivakumar-led administration. The move is seen as drawing a parallel with outgoing chief minister Siddaramaiah's rollout of Anna Bhagya scheme in 2013, when he first assumed office, which was later expanded into a set of welfare measures known as the 'Bhagyas'.

▶Open-jeep rally? P 3

SET TO TAKE OATH AS MINISTERS

- G Parameshwara, **likely deputy CM**
- Priyank Kharge
- MB Patil
- Yathindra Siddaramaiah
- KJ George
- Satish Jarkiholi, **also likely KPCC president**
- Shivaraj Tangadagi
- Roopakala Shashidhar
- UT Khader
- R Ramalinga Reddy
- Krishna Byre Gowda

Speaker choices: Dinesh Gundu Rao, Laxman Savadi or HK Patil

WHEELS OF POWER: Workers move a banner along Race Course Road on Tuesday

Cong nat'l role for Siddaramaiah

Siddaramaiah, who long resisted Delhi shift via Rajya Sabha route, **appointed to Congress Working Committee, party's key group.** This elevation marks his first-ever national role

Traffic curbs from 12pm in CBD today

Police have announced traffic diversions and parking curbs across the central business district (CBD) from noon to 8pm Wednesday. Heavy congestion is expected around Lok Bhavan, Race Course Road, Cubbon Road, Queens Road, Dr BR Ambedkar Road, and adjoining areas. Parking is prohibited on 20 major CBD roads. More than 3,500 police personnel are coordinating security arrangements. TNN

IT pro who killed parents mentally fit: B'luru police

Nearly four months after IT engineer Rohan Chandra, 33, stabbed his parents to death in Bengaluru over funding an AI startup and a dispute over porting his mobile number, a police chargesheet has declared him mentally sound and fit. Initially, it was said Rohan was schizophrenic and acted under anxiety. Based on statements made by neighbours and witnesses, cops had shifted him to Nimhans during investigations. P 3

Missing U'khand trekker was using a fake permit

The search for MBA student Babita Pandey, who went missing on the Dayara Bugyal trek around midnight on May 29, has blown the lid off an alleged fake permit racket. Pandey's name, it turned out, had been pasted on an expired physical permit to bypass mandatory registration, environmental fees, and trail-cap checks. P 5

Rape accused who faked his own death held

A man accused of rape, who jumped bail and was believed to have died a decade ago, was found alive and arrested by the Karimnagar police in Telangana on Monday. Mohammed Abdul Wajid's wife went to the cops saying he was plotting to kill her as he suspected her of cheating on him. P 11

Producer Price Index to replace WPI

The govt will phase out Wholesale Price Index (WPI) over the next five years while introducing a more detailed Producer Price Index (PPI), in a bid to offer a more realistic assessment of inflationary trends. P 15

NCERT textbook shortage bites as city schools reopen

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Bengaluru: Several CBSE schools in Bengaluru are facing shortage of NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) textbooks, affecting their academic calendar and learning outcomes.

Schools said there is a shortage of books for classes 6-9. The worst hit is class 9, where a new syllabus has been rolled out this year. They said printable PDFs available on NCERT website are of limited utility.

"Teachers find it particularly difficult to teach languages without physical copies of textbooks. This affects group work and homework assignments. Teachers lose time in dictating content, scanning pages or arranging PDFs," said Veda Prashanth, principal, Hill Rock National Public School.

"Subjects like Science and Social Science equally suffer because classroom activities depend on in-text diagrams and maps."

▶Parents protest, P 3

CLASS 9 WORST HIT

- The **textbook shortage has hit CBSE class 9 students the hardest**, where a new syllabus has been rolled out this year
- Bengaluru schools are **currently depending on e-books** available on NCERT website and DIKSHA app
- Schools use NCERT-based books till class 6. Higher grades use **NCERT-published** books

A Sena-like split? TMC firefights fears of 50-MLA exodus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The so-called "Maharashtra model" entered Bengal's political discourse Tuesday after a BJP minister invoked it in a social media post, suggesting that Trinamool Congress was staring at a Shiv Sena-like split with about 50 of its legislators ready to switch allegiance.

The remarks by newly inducted cabinet member Tapas Roy, who himself defected from Trinamool in 2024, coincided with former chief minister Mamata Banerjee's first street protest since her electoral setback drawing just eight of her remaining 78 MLAs and four of 42 MPs. Last week, she called off a scheduled meeting at her Kalighat residence after a similar turnout.

TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee holds a sit-in protest in Kolkata Tuesday against alleged attacks on party functionaries

"Trinamool has splintered...Its condition resembles what happened in Maharashtra. Ritabrata (Banerjee) brought 50 MLAs to meet the speaker," Roy wrote on his Facebook page.

▶Mamata slams BJP, P 5

Former TN BJP chief Annamalai puts in papers

Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai tendered Tuesday his resignation to party national president Nitin Nabin, triggering fresh turbulence within the state's saffron camp after the party's crushing defeat in assembly polls. Annamalai, 42, submitted his resignation along with a report laying out what he described as reasons behind BJP rout. Annamalai later met HM Amit Shah and explained his decision. The BJP leadership also summoned state president Nainar Nagenthran. P 5

No 3rd-party role on border issue with Nepal: India

After Nepal PM Balendra Shah sought UK's intervention in the border dispute, India Tuesday strongly rejected any third-party mediation. "We have established bilateral mechanisms to deal with all aspects of boundary matters... there is no role for any third parties in a bilateral matter between India and Nepal," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. Shah had said London should step in as the dispute originated during British rule. P 9

ED searches at Vedanta premises in three cities

Several premises of Vedanta Ltd in Delhi, Mumbai and Udaipur were searched on Monday by ED in a suspected FEMA violation case involving transactions related to brand royalty between the UK-based Vedanta Resources and its Indian subsidiary. Any outward remittance is subject to RBI's permission after due disclosure as under FEMA rules. A Vedanta spokesperson said they are cooperating but did not comment further. P 5

Everest speed record sparks 'ethics' row

American endurance athlete Tyler Andrews's record-breaking Everest ascent has triggered a fierce debate in the climbing world, with critics questioning whether his 9-hour, 55-minute summit push from Base Camp benefited from an earlier "route recce", **reports Vishant Agarwala**.

Andrews' original goal had been to break the no-O2 Everest speed record and he had left Base Camp on May 23, but shifting weather and complications forced him to use bottled support before he turned back. Critics said the climb helped him study key sections, plan his speed push and acclimatise. P 14

Desi flex at World Cup: Kerala boy Tahsin to play for Qatar

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Kochi: Tahsin Jamshid is on the verge of doing what very few Indians expected to see in a World Cup. The nineteen-year-old is set to become the first Indian passport holder to play in a World Cup after Qatar named him in their 26-member squad for the showpiece event in the US, Canada and Mexico.

Born in Doha to parents from Kerala, Tahsin is about to realise every Indian football lover's dream on world sport's grandest stage. Along with the Indian passport, he has a Qatari mission passport, a special document that allows foreign-born athletes to represent Qatar in international competitions.

Having played in U-16 and U-17, Tahsin made his senior debut in a WC qualifier against Afg in 2024

"According to FIFA rules, if a player is born in a country, they're eligible to play for that country. Moreover, I have a Qatari passport. There's no politics... For me, playing football is the only motive; there's nothing else to it," Tahsin was quoted as saying by a Qatar news website.

"This is such a joyous moment for me personally. To see my son achieve the heights I dreamt of at his age is truly remarkable," Tahsin's father Jamshid Thachankandy told **TOI** over phone from Doha. Jamshid himself had played for the Kerala sub-junior team in 1985.

▶Flight with Qatar, P 17

Coempt edged past TCS in tech eval, lens now on tender design

Officials Deny Hyderabad Co Was Favoured For ₹385Cr OSM Deal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The tendering process behind CBSE's massive on-screen marking (OSM) project has come under sharper scrutiny after procurement records showed that Hyderabad-based Coempt Eduteck Pvt Ltd narrowly edged past Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in the technical evaluation before securing a decisive advantage through a sharply lower financial bid.

The scoring pattern has triggered questions among some procurement observers over whether the tender design disproportionately benefited firms with narrowly defined prior examination-scanning experience over companies with larger technology and systems integration capabilities.

The contract involved scanning and digital evaluation of around 9.9 million Class XII answer books under CBSE's fully digitised evaluation system introduced this year.

Tender documents reviewed by **TOI** show Coempt secured 91 out of 100 marks in the technical evaluation, only marginally ahead of TCS, which scored 89. The two firms were closely matched across several parameters, including certifications, manpower strength, security compliance, disaster recovery systems and solution architecture.

Sanjay Hadkar

Youth Cong members protest NEET and CBSE controversies in Mumbai

The key difference emerged in the "past experience" category, linked specifically to scanning and distribution of subjective answer scripts for digital evaluation.

According to the technical evaluation sheet, Coempt received full marks while TCS scored zero in that category despite securing higher marks in the technical presentation and live demonstration segment.

Coempt also secured full marks for experience in handling large-scale digital evaluation projects and managing multiple evaluation centres simultaneously. TCS, however, got maximum marks under the turnover criterion because of its significantly larger financial scale and operational capacity.

The financial bids revealed an even wider gap.

According to bid documents, Coempt quoted rates ranging between approximately Rs 24.8 and Rs 25.7 per answer booklet depending on processing volume, while TCS quoted between Rs 53 and Rs 65 per booklet across similar categories.

The evaluated bid value worked out to roughly Rs 384.6 crore for Coempt compared to nearly Rs 951.3 crore for TCS — a difference of around Rs 566 crore.

Under the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) model adopted by CBSE, technical scores carried 70% weightage while financial bids accounted for 30%.

"A bidder with a slight technical edge and a substantially lower quote gains a major advantage once weighted scores are combined," a former central govt procurement official said.

The procurement process has also drawn attention because CBSE did not finalise a qualified vendor in two earlier tender rounds before modifying certain technical conditions in a later request for proposal issued in Aug 2025.

Officials, however, rejected suggestions that Coempt was favoured.

CBSE sources maintained that the evaluation was conducted strictly according to the criteria laid down in the tender document and under General Financial Rules governing public procurement. Officials argued that the board had limited discretion in the technical round and Coempt fulfilled all eligibility requirements prescribed in the bid conditions.

"The company that met the technical requirements and secured the highest combined QCBS score was selected in accordance with QCBS provisions," an official said.

The tender has acquired wider significance amid growing scrutiny of CBSE's digital evaluation ecosystem and questions over the pace at which the nationwide OSM system was rolled out for the 2026 board examinations.

Kannur univ had disqualified Coempt from digitisation deal

Mumbai: Coempt Eduteck, the company entrusted by CBSE with handling the digitisation of answer sheets and their onscreen evaluation, was recently disqualified from a similar contract by Kannur University in Kerala over what the university termed the "non-disclosure of a pending criminal proceeding", reports **Hemali Chhapia**.

Documents reviewed by **TOI** show Coempt submitted a mandatory declaration claiming a "clean track record" and certifying that no criminal or civil proceedings were pending against it. However, while evaluating bids for its end-to-end answer-book digitisation and digital evaluation contract, Kannur University's tender committee found that the declaration was not consistent with the status of Criminal Petition No. 696/2019, pending before Andhra Pradesh HC.

The findings concluded that the company's declaration was "not in conformity" with official court records and this amounted to "suppression of material facts". Such non-disclosure, the committee observed, affected "the integrity of the procurement process".

The university upheld Coempt's disqualification after examining the company's declaration, court records and two separate clarification replies submitted by the bidder. According to committee records, the company itself acknowledged in a clarification dated Feb 18, 2026, that the matter was "technically shown as pending" before the court.

Procurement records from 2021 show that the company has participated in 52 govt tenders worth a cumulative Rs 129.5 crore and secured 12 contracts valued at Rs 75.5 crore. Documents with **TOI** show that barring a single Maharashtra contract worth approximately Rs 61 crore, the company has not secured any other tender valued above Rs 5 crore.

Teen 'cyber security researcher' flags NTA portal vulnerabilities

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New Delhi: NTA on Tuesday scrambled to patch up vulnerabilities in its NEET-UG portal which were highlighted by a teen "cyber security researcher", who warned that the chink could potentially be exploited to hack sensitive information.

There was a weakness that had briefly affected the website but it has since been fixed, NTA sources told **TOI** on a day a barrage of cyber attacks was unleashed on CBSE's website.

Rylen Anil, identifying himself as a 16 year-old "cyber security researcher", sounded the warning on X. Interestingly, he is followed by the NTA administration.

The agency, reeling under criticism over the paper leak, moved fast to plug the crack which could have potentially helped outsiders access details linked to examination observers, centre coordinators and test centres — including names, mobile numbers and email addresses. Sources, in the agency acknowledged the repair job, but stopped short of endorsing Anil's statement about the damage it could have caused.

iStock

NTA sources said there was a weakness that briefly affected the website but it had been fixed

Anil alleged that the vulnerabilities may have enabled actions such as exporting internal records, generating appointment letters, modifying observer data, uploading templates and managing administrative mappings linked to the examination process, triggering concern among students, parents and cybersecurity observers.

As screenshots and allegations circulated online, several users reported that the re-examination portal link had temporarily stopped working and was displaying a "404 Not Found" message. The development further fuelled speculation online regarding possible backend intervention or emergency technical changes.

In the evening, NTA officials maintained necessary corrective measures were implemented and the portal was functioning normally.

NSUI in HC for probe, links Coempt to TRS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Nagpur: National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Tuesday filed a PIL in Delhi HC seeking an independent probe into alleged large-scale irregularities in CBSE's OSM system for the Class XII examination.

The student wing of Congress has sought a direction to CBSE to undertake manual rechecking and physical verification of the answer sheets of affected students. NSUI has further sought directions to the authorities to keep the portal for verification and re-evaluation of answer sheets open for one month.

NSUI alleged that the sharp decline in overall performance in this year's results had led to widespread concern regarding the fairness, consistency and reliability of the OSM system. "About 1,27,146 applications concerning 3,87,399 scanned answer books had been submitted within a very short period," the PIL stated.

NSUI also held protests demanding Coempt Eduteck Pvt Ltd be ousted from Nagpur University. It alleged the agency had come under the scanner for its links with Telangana Rashtra Samithi during the 2019 intermediate exam fiasco. Both NSUI and Congress's Telangana unit have alleged Coempt earlier operated under the name Globarena Technologies, and changed it to escape being blacklisted.

(With inputs from Sarfaraz Ahmed)

Govt action an eyewash, sack Pradhan: Cong

New Delhi: Rejecting the action against the CBSE brass for the OSM controversy as an attempt to avoid fixing accountability, Congress on Tuesday reiterated its demand that education minister Dharmendra Pradhan be sacked.

While Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi dubbed the govt action as a "cover-up" and an "eyewash", Congress general secretary KC Venugopal called it "admission of guilt without punishing the culprit".

Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh lauded Gen Z for exposing Modi govt, even as he argued that "justice requires that the 'Mantri Pradhan' be sacked... He has been presiding over a monumentally corrupt, inept, and incompetent ecosystem that has played havoc with the lives of lakhs of youth." TNN

Racketeers log in again, offer 'NEET re-exam papers & guaranteed scores' for a hefty price

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Ahmedabad: Amid the NEET 2026 paper leak row and ongoing CBI probe, fresh racketeers have resurfaced online, with several social media channels allegedly promising access to 'NEET re-exam question papers' and 'guaranteed scores' in exchange for hefty payments.

Ahmedabad-based activist Shubham Thaker submitted a complaint to cybercrime police seeking an investigation into whether these channels possessed genuine exam material or were merely exploiting students and parents keen to buy a good score in the re-exam scheduled June 21.

'We have a setting with the key agencies and will ensure the right answers are filled, and students get a 620-plus score. Total charge will be Rs 20 lakh,' a channel operator told this TOI reporter, who posed as an aspirant's parent

The alleged racket operates through multiple channels on a social media platform. Many of them frequently change usernames and admit members only through referrals. The channels claim to provide NEET re-exam question papers for amounts ranging from Rs 60,000 to Rs 1 lakh. Some groups allegedly demand payments up to Rs 20 lakh for top scores of 620-plus out of 700, Thaker alleged.

"You must pay a Rs 50,000 token amount and meet our boss personally in our Bengaluru office. On exam day, leave the OMR sheets blank. We have a setting with the key agencies and will ensure that the right answers are filled, and students get a 620-plus score. Total charge will be Rs 20 lakh," one channel operator told this **TOI** reporter, who posed as a NEET aspirant's parent.

Another operator, who introduced himself as a faculty member associated with a prominent coaching institute in Delhi, claimed during a conversation with Thaker that the leaked paper was genuine. "He said his network had purchased half the paper for Rs 35 lakh and the remaining questions would be available closer to the exam date. He allegedly assured prospective buyers that the network enjoyed protection from influential individuals and asked candidates to transfer money through QR code," Thaker said.